

Bioplastic Mosaics (STEAM Workshop)

Culture of Origin: Mexico (Ancient Aztecs).

Description Grades 6th - College

What makes certain materials biodegradable, recyclable or compostable? Investigating materials that make the objects around us will give attendees more information about how to be more environmentally conscious consumers and artists.

Colorado Standards: Social Studies, Visual Arts, Biology, Chemistry

Objectives: Introducing students to bioplastic materials and making sense of how they are made, used and decomposed in the natural environment. Historical awareness of the art of mosaic, what it was used to represent and the means of making it. In addition, students will learn about reusable materials used in the society of the Ancient Aztecs and details a cultural practice of the Aztecs.

Exit Ticket/Deliverable: Students will understand the difference between traditional and bioplastics. They will be able to create and use bioplastics in art, while connecting to visual symbols from ancient cultures. They also will be able to understand that humans have been employing natural resources for centuries and that this practice is often more earth-friendly.

Art Component: Students will create a mosaic using pre-prepared bioplastic as the glass replacement for mosaics. They will understand some of the common visual motifs of Ancient Aztec mosaics. They will also take home the plastic they made themselves with a few different options for making their own bioplastic into art.

Vocabulary: Bioplastic, alganyl, Ollama, Mosaic, Aztec

