

BREAKING WATER

Creature Connection

GRADE LEVEL: K-12 (with adaptations)



OBJECTIVE

Like artist Cecilia Bengolea, students will combine dance and visual art to express humanity's connection to nature and animals. In this lesson, students will discover what animal (real or fantasy) they most connect with and why. They will then create their own hybrid species, that they will draw and represent through dance. Students will consider how art can bring awareness to important issues and help others connect with those issues as well.

VOCABULARY

Hybridization Biodiversity Ecology

MATERIALS

- Paper
- glue
- scissors
- Foam (optional)
- coloring materials

BEFORE HAND

- Gather materials. Introduce students to *Breaking Water* and Cecilia Bengolea's work through the CAC's [teacher resources](#) such as educator guides, virtual tours, and the information below.

PROCEDURES

Activity A: Discussion Questions

- When you think of water what animals come to mind?
- Of those animals which do you connect to the most?
- How do you feel you connect to it?

Activity B: Movement

- Now that students have an animal in mind, have everyone get out of their chairs and create movements and sounds associated with their animal.
- Discuss how Begonlea uses dance to highlight humanity's connectedness with animals (spirit animals) to link the past with the present, and how natural hybridization helps to create new species.

Activity C: Visual Art

- Students will consider how their dance movements can be combined with their chosen animal in a picture form (see Bengolea's *Mosquito Net* piece for reference).
- Using a variety of drawing/coloring materials to create their hybrid creatures.
- Students will then cut out their pieces. If possible, it could be fun to mount the cut-outs onto foam core for a more 3-D look.
- Finally, while dancing with their artwork, students will create new movements and sounds based on the new creatures they created.

RESOURCES

- <https://ceciliabengolea.com/Mosquito-Net>
- <https://ceciliabengolea.com/Biography>
- <https://www.desertsun.com/story/life/entertainment/2019/02/07/desert-x-2019-five-art-pieces-view-salton-sea/2653741002/>