

## Expressing time with art

**Andy Goldsworthy** is a British artist known for his site-specific installations involving natural materials and the passage of time. He creates artwork from materials that are local to the location where he is working. The materials themselves are sometimes impermanent, such as ice or snow, and the installations are left in their natural element to be reclaimed by the earth through weather and the passing of time.

Goldsworthy's artwork is closely related to the concept of impermanence; the state or fact of lasting for only a limited period of time. Just as seasons cycle, tides come in and out, and the moon goes through phases of waxing and waning, eventually his art returns to nature. Because of this, he documents his work through the mediums of photography and video.

Watch this short clip of Goldsworthy at work in a section of his film *Rivers and Tides*. The full version of the film is available on Netflix or on YouTube if you are interested in watching the whole thing.



Check out **Andy Goldsworthy's work**  
WATCH: [youtu.be/f7sZv4\\_0Fvg](https://youtu.be/f7sZv4_0Fvg)



SCAN ME



**“Movement, change, light, growth, and decay are the lifeblood of nature, the energies that I try to tap through my work.”**

~ Andy Goldsworthy

### Activity:

After watching the YouTube clip, think about how you could create artwork in a similar way. If you have access to a yard or outdoor area, you may be able to create works that are reminiscent of what Goldsworthy does. Keep in mind that he does not bring in any glue, thread, or other materials that cannot be found on location, though he may use small sticks or pine needles to pin items together.

1. How would you use Goldsworthy's style to create something similar inside or outside of your home?
2. What are some items you could use in the kitchen? Bathroom? Living room?
3. How will you document this work? Think about the value and reasons behind documenting your work the way Goldsworthy does - how or why would you capture the process of your project, or not?

### Timing and Extended Learning:

This activity could be done once, or frequently if you are having fun and want to explore further. Plan for about 20 minutes to watch the video, examine the photos, plan out, and create your own art.

**Sources:** Artist info: <http://www.artnet.com/artists/andy-goldsworthy/> YouTube clip: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7sZv4\\_0Fvg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7sZv4_0Fvg)

**“People leave presence in a place even when they are no longer there.”**

~ Andy Goldsworthy