

UNIT PLAN BRAINSTORM



What's in Your Attic? (Social Studies, English Language Arts, Visual Arts)

Don't let the things you love sit and gather dust! Inspire your class to create time capsules of the objects that bring them joy. First, prompt your students to collect memorabilia that holds special memories for them, like old drawings, ticket stubs or toys. Then, organize a giant craft day where each student brings these objects into school. Provide old Tupperware, shoeboxes or tissue boxes for each student to put their treasures inside of and create their time capsule. Afterwards, use glue, markers, paints and construction paper to decorate the outside of the capsules and label them accordingly. Once complete, ask each student to put their capsule somewhere safe. Throughout the year, ask everyone to periodically revisit their capsules and write down a memory that one of the objects brings up. At the end of the year, reflect on the capsules and the stories that they have generated. *What objects would you remove? What would stay the same?*

To support this unit, use the [Your Dream Magic City's Characters Creativity Page](#) in the Discover and Create section.

Your Inner Zilla: Creating a Calming Corner (Social Emotional Learning, Visual Arts)

Big emotions require lots of room, literally. Transform a corner of your classroom into a calming corner with your students' help. Start by asking your class what helps them relax when they get overwhelmed or frustrated. Record their responses on a white board or a large piece of chart paper. Next, provide a large piece of butcher paper and let each student draw pictures of the things that keep them calm, using the list you just created as a reference. By the time you're done, you'll have created a large mural of your class's favorite things. Hang this mural on the wall of a quiet corner of your classroom. This corner can be where your students can go if they feel overwhelmed, frustrated or just need a moment alone. Include materials like markers, paints and crayons in the corner, so students can continue to draw on the mural and channel their feelings into creativity. Conclude this unit with a talk about how to use the space and process big emotions, utilizing the calming corner as a tool throughout the year.

To support this unit, use the [See You on the Flip Side! Creativity Page](#) in the Respond and Connect section.

Scavenger Hunt Bonanza! (Visual Arts, Social Studies)

Some small objects have big meaning! In this activity, students will find objects in their own community and bring them to life using their imaginations. Start by providing your class with a scavenger hunt checklist for fun, small items that students can find at home or school. This handout may include items like: "something round," "something colorful" or "something that makes you laugh." Give your students a week or two to collect an assortment of fun items and bring them into class. Once they have their objects, ask them to imagine what these objects would be like if they were all brought to life: *Where would they live? What would they say to one another? What adventures would they go on?* Have each student come up with a story based on their special objects and write it down so they don't forget. To culminate, host a gallery show where each student introduces their objects to the rest of the class and tells the story that their collection inspired!

To support this unit, use the [We Can Build a Beautiful City Activity](#) in the Respond and Connect section.