FULL STEAM AHEAD

A WSU Campus Tour Harmonizing Science and Art

Teacher Edition

By Natalie Moffett, May 2024

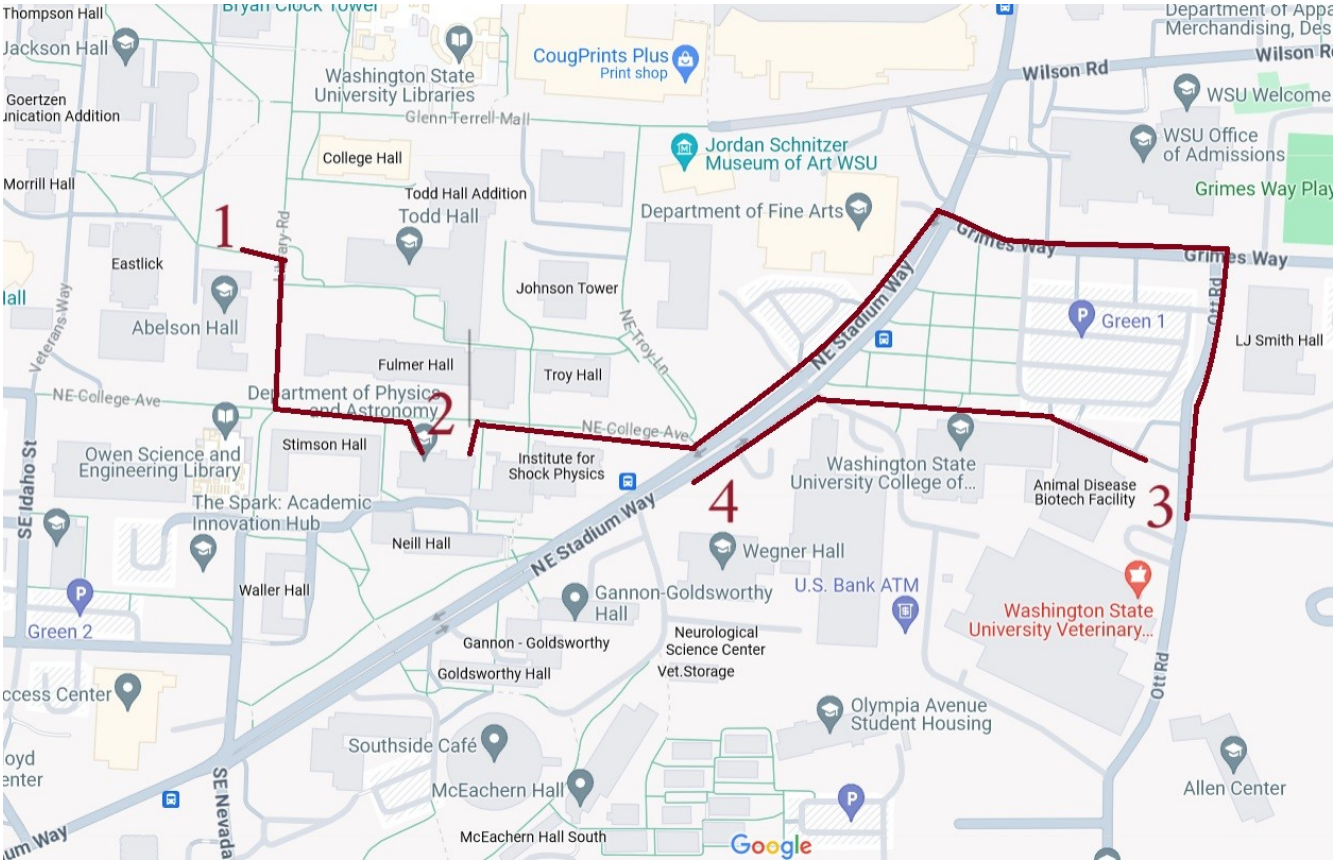
Goals and Suggestions

This tour and its suggested activities are intended for grades 6-12, in order to connect their learning between the arts and biological sciences. These activities are also intended to give students a more accurate descriptive vocabulary to use in their everyday observations.

Maps and Addresses

This tour contains 4 stops, you may need to contact the museums before visiting to confirm opening hours. See the map and addresses below for guidance. The tour descends in elevation, and takes approximately 15 minutes of walking time total.

Encourage students to use their vocabulary sheets to describe plants, animals, and locations they see on their walk.



Stop 1: Conner Museum

125 Ableson Hall, Pullman, WA 99163, 509-335-3515, connermuseum@wsu.edu

Stop 2: Culver Study/Jacklin Collection

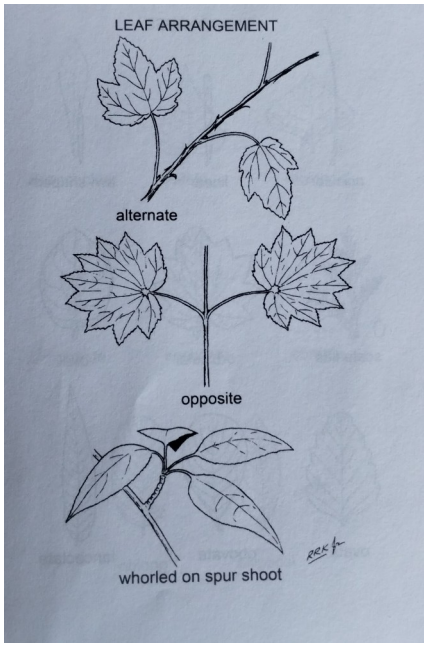
Floor 1, Webster Hall, Pullman WA 99163, 509-335-3009, soe@wsu.edu

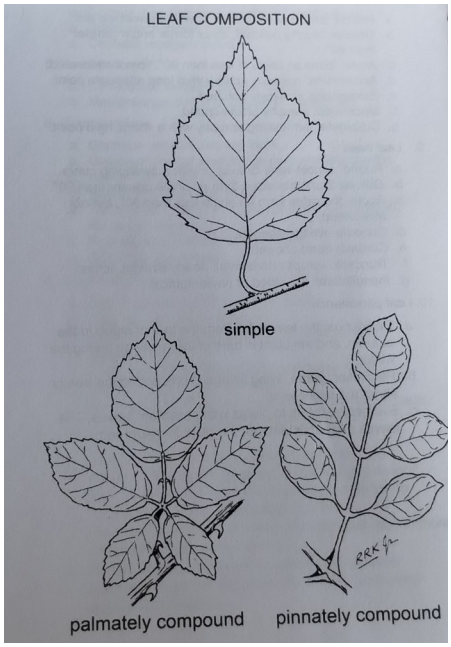
Stop 3: *Red Forest,* Outside the Vet Teaching Hospital, Ott Rd, Pullman, WA 99163

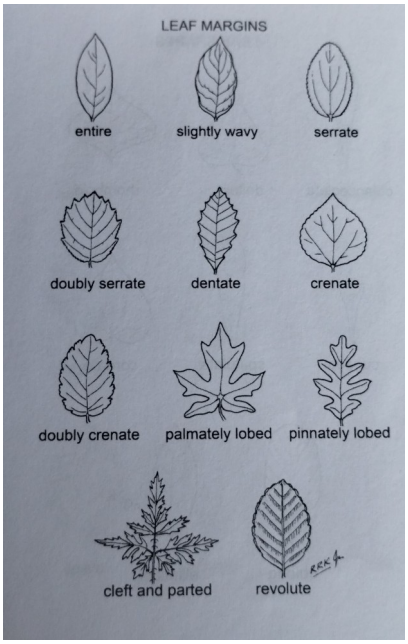
Stop 4: *Cobumora,* Outside Wegner Hall, 1505 NE Stadium Way, Pullman, WA 99164

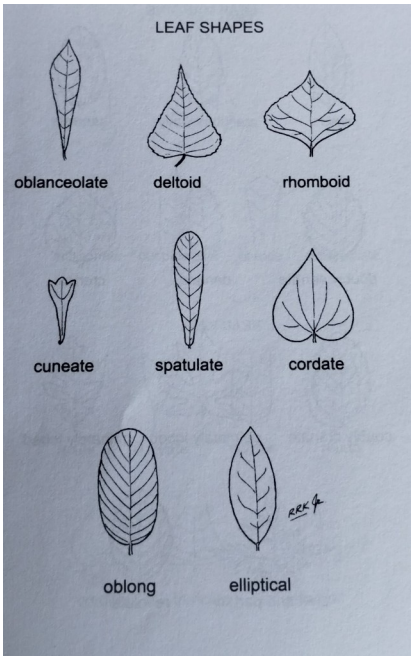
Vocabulary

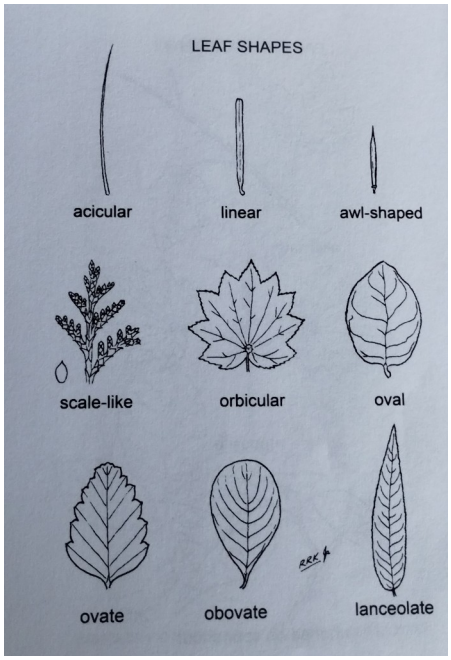
Artist uses vocabulary terms such as line, form, and color to describe artwork for viewers who may not be present, Biologists use similar terms to describe lifeforms for others who may not be able to see those plants or animals in person. Study the terms below, and use them to describe objects you see on the tour.

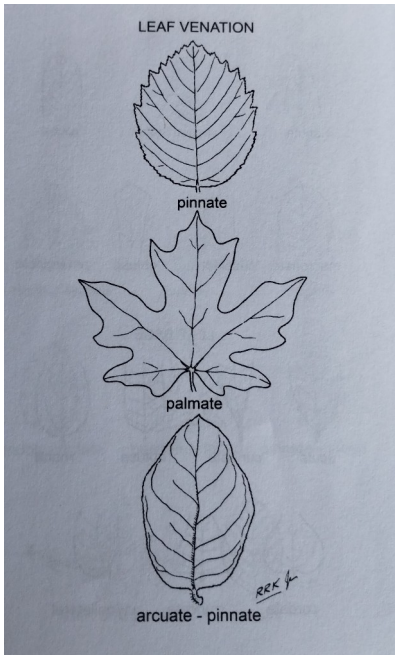






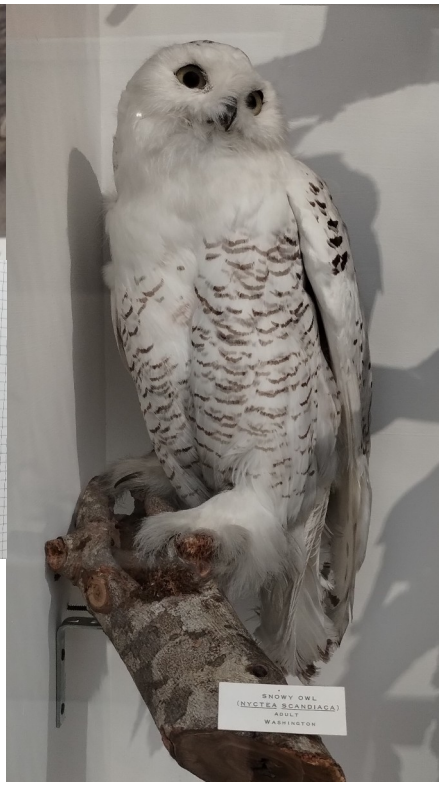






Stop 1: The Connor Museum

This museum contains WSU's mount and pelt collection, please prepare your students to see taxidermy before reaching the museum if necessary. Allow your students 15-20 minutes to explore the museum looking for examples of shape and line, then gather them in the 3rd room for further discussion.



Of particular note in this room are the regular patterns on the diamondback rattlesnake, your students may also note the "spotting" of the snowy owl in the first room, and the antlers of the Moose and Elk in the hallway are examples of palmate and pinnate structures.[1] On the north side of the building is a greenhouse with several species of plants that allow for further vocabulary refinement, give your students another 5 minutes to observe these plants and use their new vocabulary.

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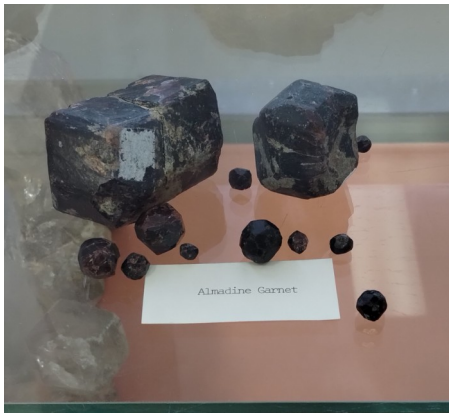
1 *The Connor also has their own list of activities if you would like to explore more, https://sbs.wsu.edu/conner-museum/for-educators/.*

Stop 2: The Culver Museum at Webster Hall

The Culver Study Memorial and Jacklin Collection Museum house examples of natural history and geology from across the united states. Allow your students to explore the shape and colors of the collection, paying attention to the florescent mineral display and displays containing rock of multiple colors. Encourage students to write down the names of minerals and describe the color in their own words, as well as look for geometric shapes and lines. For example, garnets regularly form 16 sided shapes due to their internal chemistry, and trilobites contain regular repeating lines within their body plans. Students may also sketch or observe differences and similarities between biological and geological forms, especially with the large collection of petrified wood on display.

Discuss students observations, sketches, and elaborate on connections between artist and nature. Consider discussing "Monkey Selfie Lawsuit Ends With Settlement Between PETA, Photographer" https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/09/12/550417823/-animal-rights-advocates-photographer-compromise-over-ownership-of-monkey-selfie and intention vs unintentional artwork.



Stop 3: Deborah Butterfields' *Red Forest*

Red Forest is the newest sculpture on WSU's campus, and was created by the artist Deborah Butterfield in 2013 as a continuation of her works depicting mares and as horses as extensions of the self and the earth. This statue, like many of Butterfields, was cast at the Walla Walla foundry and is made of bronze. Its location outside of WSU's vet teaching hospital is a deliberate reference to the Vet Med Program and the Equine studies program.

Encourage your students to spend 15 minutes observing the statue, and describing it in their own words, then lead a conversation about why this statue may have been chosen for this place, and what it will look like in the future. Compare the statue to other objects observed on this tour and discuss similarities and differences (eg petrified wood vs. cast bronze) and encourage students to sketch.

Stop 4: Andrew Leicester's Cobumora

Andrew Leicester created *Cobumora* in 1984 in response to an Arts Commission call for submissions. He sat in on classes and labs and explored the surrounding landscape before deciding to make a courtyard that memorialized the history of human and animal relationships. The mice at the entrances carry viewers into the space just as mice carry the weight of human science into the future. With references to mesopotamian and greek reliance on animals for fortune, heath, and wealth, Leichester invites us to think about how we rely on animals today.

Students should look around, either individually or in small groups, and find similarities between the sculpture and their observations and sketches done earlier in the tour. Allow them to compare and contrast the image of Cobumora from its instillation (above, available at https://andrewleicester.com/project/cobumora-pullman-wa/) and today.

Take time at the end of the tour to go over each stop, and what students found important, meaningful, or interesting at each one, as well as recurring imagery or themes.

Works Cited

"Cobumora, Pullman, WA." 2012. Andrew Leicester. October 3, 2012. https://andrewleicester.com/project/cobumora-pullman-wa/.

Doss, Erika. 1986. "Andrew Leicester's COBUMORA." *Landscape Architecture* 76 (1): 64–68.

"Manual of Oregon Trees and Shrubs — John Bell & Associates." n.d. Accessed May 1, 2024. https://www.johnbellandassociates.com/product/manual/.