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4200/Computer Graphics for Art Educators

**Migration in Nature Captured in Art**

The cross curricular content area theme I have chosen is “Life Sciences.” The science standards in the life sciences address how “living systems function and interact with the physical environment.” For this project I would ask students to choose a species of animal or insect with distinctive migratory traits (i.e. Monarch butterflies, Tuna, Canadian Geese, and Salmon). The students would be encouraged to include visual examples of these migrations as the background and alter their skin to accommodate the texture of the species they have chosen.

This project would also incorporate the Social Studies Standard of Geography, as students would be expected to relay the starting and finishing points of the migrations. For extra credit, I would encourage my students to include a map of these migrations as one of their layers, although artistic liberties would be encouraged.

In their assessment, students would be expected to write about the reasoning behind each of their image choices based on the research that they conducted on their species. In fulfilling this task they would also be fulfilling a number of language arts standards, including vocabulary acquisition, writing process, writing applications, writing conventions standard, and research standards

My example project specifically addresses the phenomenon of a murmuration, or flock of starlings. The background is composed of two layers of murmuration images and the mapping on the body is composed of feathers. Finally, the word murmuration is layered upon the image.