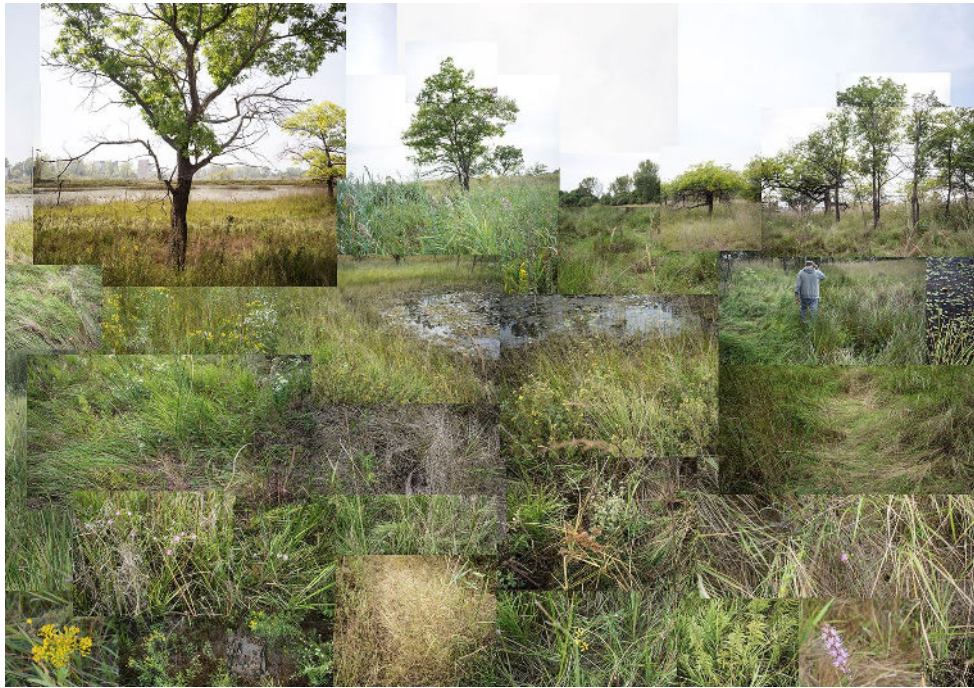




Seeing Stories

in *Terry Evans:*

Stories of the American Prairies



Family Day Activity Guide
Harn Museum of Art



The best stories create pictures inside the minds of readers and transport them to places outside the pages of a storybook.



Photographer Terry Evans uses pictures, rather than words, to tell the stories of the people, places and things of the American Midwest. Through this activity guide, we'll learn about a few photographs in the *Terry Evans: Stories of the American Prairies* exhibition, on display at the Harn Museum of Art.

Each photograph will transport us to a different location, inviting us to explore the various natural, manmade, preserved and changing aspects of the American landscape. We'll also be prompted to participate in activities inspired by the places we see.

Let's go!



Key to Exploring Content:

Green Text = Quotes from Photographer Terry Evans

Highlighted Text = Vocabulary Words

Blue Text = Activity Prompt

Rooster Says = Our Poetry Dog Guide!





Location #1:

The Field Museum in Chicago, Illinois



In this photograph, Evans captures the preservation of a type of flower called *Echinacea*, or coneflower, that is native to the Midwest and grows in the prairies of Chicago. The flowers in this photo grew over one hundred years ago! They have been dried and preserved on a piece of paper for future study and admiration.



Rooster, the black Labrador, says, “It’s time for walkies!”
Sniff the air—how many smells can you name?
Turn your ears every which way, can you count three different natural noises? I can hear them all, even the worms moving through the ground!
Find a creature to watch and be as silent as you can—can you be quiet enough not to wake a sleeping anole?
When you’re done, write down all the special things you noticed.

“As a photographer, I fancy myself an explorer, so I began exploring the vast 19th-century collections in Chicago's Field Museum. I am moved by the beauty of these carefully preserved specimens.”



Location #2:

Indiana Harbor in Chicago, Illinois



Can you feel the heat coming off this photo? Here, liquid **slag** erupts out of a furnace like lava out of a volcano. This fiery photo captures Evans’ interest in the transformation of natural materials into manmade objects, such as steel. Steel is a building material used to convert the prairies into a cities.



In this photo, melted slag forms lines that flow downwards and bounce off the ground. In this space, challenge yourself to draw a line that conveys movement while keeping the tip of your pencil on the paper as you draw. Experiment with drawing fast, slow, in different directions and styles to create one long, flowing line.

Rooster says, “Let your lines go wild!” Let your lines sprawl all over the place, like my legs do when I fall asleep. This isn’t homework, put your lines wherever you like! Write a line of poetry in a silly squiggle like the lines in the photo by Terry Evans.

“From inside working steel mills, I experienced the mystery of transformation by fire of raw materials into steel.”



Location #3:

Promontory Point, Chicago, Illinois



Which season do you think Terry Evans took this photo? This **aerial** photograph showcases the various components of the landscape and the wide range of **value** within this snowy scene. The snow, which is light in value, contrasts with the surrounding water, leafless trees and the building's roof, which are dark in value.



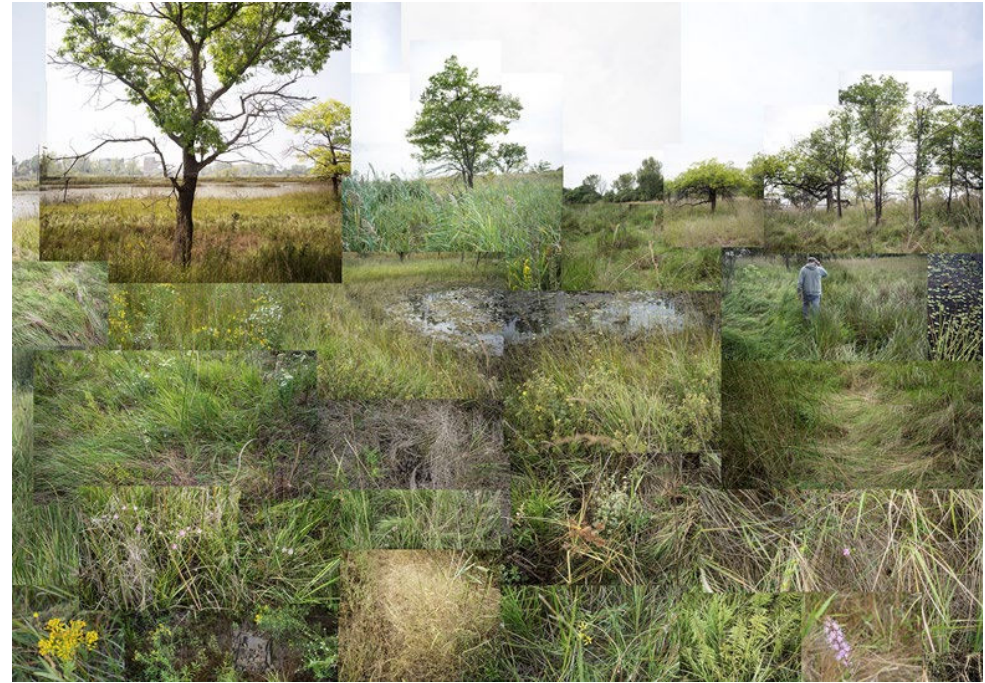
Rooster says, "I love dreaming about flying!" My favorite dreams are about flying, and so are my favorite poems! Notice how small everything looks from way up high. Whole buildings become as little as chew toys. Write about how your favorite place would look from the sky!

"Viewing places from above draws attention to important issues on the ground."



Location #4:

Prairie in Northern Indiana



Terry Evans is interested in the interweaving of land and people. During multiple visits to this location, Evans photographed various aspects of the land, including trees, water, buildings and a human figure. She thoughtfully collaged these pieces of the prairie together to make one interesting **composition** of the Northern Indiana landscape.



"In 2019, I returned to the land in a series titled Ancient Prairies; it helped me remember the wisdom and beauty of intact prairies that cannot exist without acknowledging the kinship between humans and nature."

Think about your favorite nature words (mine happen to be dogwood and tree bark). How many nature words does it take to make a landscape?

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A diagram showing a large rectangle divided into several smaller rectangles of different sizes, illustrating the concept of area and perimeter. The rectangles are arranged in a non-uniform grid pattern, with some rectangles being larger than others. The lines are black and the background is white.

A detailed illustration of a dragonfly with a brown and black segmented body and transparent wings, perched on a thin branch. The branch is adorned with several small, five-petaled white flowers and green leaves. The background is a solid dark blue.



Sun print paper is a special light sensitive material that uses the power of the sun to transform! After being exposed to sunlight and rinsed with water, it shifts in value from light blue to dark blue. Objects placed on the paper's surface block the sunlight and prevent the paper underneath from darkening. The light blue silhouettes of the objects are preserved within the field of dark blue.

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Sun Print Instructions

Please Note:

- ☀ Sun print paper is very sensitive to light! Do not take a sheet of sun print paper out until you are ready to use it (see Step 3). Always keep the protective envelope tightly shut to protect the paper not in use.
- ☀ This project relies on the sun and is best suited for a sunny, windless day.

What You'll Need

- ☀ Sun print paper
 - ☀ Recommended Brands: Tedco Sun Art Paper Kit and Lawrence Hall of Science Super Sunprint Kit
- ☀ Flat objects
- ☀ A piece of scrap paper (same size as sun print paper)
- ☀ Tray or another sturdy, moveable surface
- ☀ Access to a sink
- ☀ Paper towels

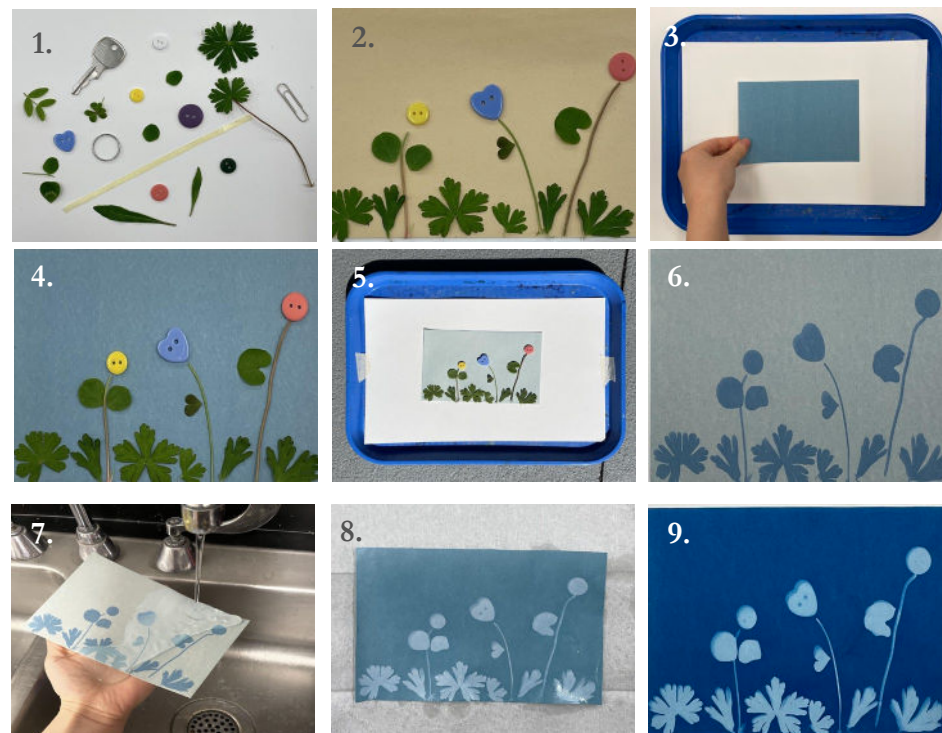
What You'll Do

- Explore your surroundings and gather objects that can easily lie flat on a piece of paper.
 - ☀ Tip: Evans explores the land up close and from afar. Try bending close to the ground to spot small objects, such as leaves and flowers. Try carefully standing on a tall platform, like a park bench, to look for objects that stand out from the land below. What kind of natural and manmade objects can you find?
 - ☀ Tip: The sun print paper only preserves the shapes of objects directly in contact with its surface. Look for objects with interesting edges and cutouts, such as a jagged house key or a delicate piece of lace.
- Play with the arrangement of your objects on a scrap piece of paper to create a composition.
 - ☀ Tip: Experiment with cutting and ripping objects to fit in the composition.
 - ☀ Tip: Press leaves and flowers between the palms of your hands to flatten them.
- When you are happy with the composition, remove your sun print paper from the protective envelope and lay it on a tray with the blue side facing up.
- Working quickly, transfer your objects from the scrap paper to the sun print paper.

Sun Print Instructions

- Carefully move the tray into direct sunlight. Leave in the sun for about two minutes.
 - ☀ Tip: To achieve the best sun print, avoid areas with shadows. Also consider the direction of the sun when placing your tray.
- Take the sun print paper out of the sunlight and remove the objects. Notice how the areas of paper that were exposed to sunlight have lightened in color.
- Gently rinse the paper with water for about one minute. Carefully move the paper under the water to ensure that the entire paper gets rinsed. Observe how the areas of the paper that were protected by the objects begin to lighten while the exposed areas begin to darken.
- Leave the print to dry on a bed of paper towels. Watch the blue of the exposed paper continue to darken over time.
 - ☀ Tip: Leave the dry sun print under a weighted object, like a book, overnight to flatten out any wrinkles.
- Admire how the sun print paper transformed to create a camera-less photograph of your composition!
- Repeat the steps to create a series of sun prints!

Visual Instructions:



Vocabulary

Aerial Photography: A style of photography that captures the land from the air. When birds fly over the land, they have an aerial view of the landscape below.

Composition: An arrangement of individual parts to make a unified image.

Slag: The collection of impurities that is separated from melted steel during the steelmaking process.

Value: The lightness or darkness of something.

Resources

View Terry Evans' work:

- Visit the Harn Museum of Art. Free Admission.
- Explore Terry Evans' website: terryevansphotography.com

Learn About Gainesville's Prairie Lands:

www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/paynes-prairie-preserve-state-park

Express Yourself Through Poetry:

- The Walk Poem: www.teachersandwritersmagazine.org/the-walk-poem-4591.htm

Family Guide image credits:

Front Cover + Page 6:

Dune and Swale, Indiana, September 2018, from the series *Ancient Prairies*

Photo date: 2018

Print date: 2019

Pigment print

Museum purchase, funds

provided by the Caroline

Julier and James G. Richardson

Art Acquisition Fund

Page 4:

Slag Processing, Indiana Harbor, August 31, 2006

From the series,

Steel Work--Production 2006

Pigment print

Gift of Terry Evans and

Catherine Edelman

Gallery, Chicago

Page 3:

Field Museum, Echinacea, 1899, 2001

From the series,

Prairie Specimens

2001

Pigment print

On loan from artist and

Catherine Edelman

Gallery, Chicago

Page 5:

Promontory Point, Hyde Park Neighborhood of Chicago, January 29, 2004

From the series,

Revealing Chicago 2004

Pigment print

Gift of Terry Evans and

Catherine Edelman

Gallery, Chicago



This guide was created by Sarah Bass, Spring 2021 Family Programs Intern, and Paige Willis, Family Programs Coordinator, in collaboration with Debora Greger, Poet-in-Residence, Emily Hill, Spring 2021 Writer-in-Residence, and her dog Rooster, the black Labrador.