

Educational Resources for the

*“I Remember...”*

Oral History Art Show



The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act





## Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)

### ORAL HISTORY and ART LESSON PLAN PACKET

to accompany the *"I Remember"* project

We all have stories to tell about our lives. When told they help put our memories and experiences in mental order. If we do not share or communicate these experiences and observations of our lifetime in writing or by word- of- mouth, the data is forever lost. There is much to learn from these stories, much to share, and much to help humanity grow.

Louisiana wetlands are in a similar situation. If they are not protected or restored they will be lost forever. The Louisiana marshes, swamplands, barrier islands, and other coastal habitats are the fastest disappearing landmasses in the world. But, the people of Louisiana and the United States are trying to save portions of the essential habitats through the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) efforts. This program builds new land and protects fragile coastal habitats. To date, CWPPRA has prepared nearly 150 coastal restoration projects which protect, create, or restore over 112,000 acres and enhance approximately 550,000 acres of wetland habitat. (See more at [LACoast.gov](http://LACoast.gov).) This oral history and art project was created in conjunction with the land restoration projects in an effort increase awareness and attempt to rescue Louisiana's fragile coastline.

The connection between people and the land is strong in many places around the globe. This oral history and art project is designed to be a thoughtful reflection and self-examination of the connection between people and the land that is being saved and lost. It is more than land that is at risk, it is a unique culture that is also at stake. This programming supplement is designed to

help others take a reflective and artistic view of how ecology plays an active role in our everyday lives.

As oral history is the systematic collection of the testimony of living people about their own experiences, this project asks people to reflect on collecting oral histories related to natural balance. Oral historians make an effort to verify their findings, analyze them, and place them in an accurate historical context. The CWPPRA “*I Remember*” *Oral History* project combines the importance of oral history, art, and conservationism within the southern region of Louisiana. Additionally, the project has incorporated elements of art including: environmental portrait photography that accompanies the oral histories, wetland nature photography, and paintings that tell stories.

This associated CWPPRA Oral History Educational Resource companion guide is a selection of compiled materials that has a central motif: teaching the effects of oral history, art, and environmental science inside the classroom or informal education setting. The materials in this packet are for both teachers and students who are interested in using oral history and art as a productive tool in helping to raise awareness and support about ecological issues that plague the environment around us. The materials in this packet are as follows:

- Sample Oral History Interview Questions to Ask Elders
- “National Visual Arts Standards”
- 6 Selected Lesson Plans from “Spirit of the Estuary”
- Art Education Resources

We hope this supplement will be a useful tool in engaging your audiences.

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“Oral History” curriculum supplements  
and  
“Spirit of the Estuary” curriculum.*

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