

Our Community Art Activity

Students will create a shared collage mural of 'community'. This activity is designed to both build on arts' skills as well as encourage thoughtful collaboration as a class community. Students will reflect on ideas of community, such as what it is, what it looks like and how it works, whilst they complete the activity.

In Preparation

To prepare for this activity you can either,

1. Choose to go for a local walk with the class and take note of the kinds of places you see along the way.
2. Or spend some time brainstorming what our community looks like and what places they imagine in their community.
3. Ask what things they love about their community spaces.
4. You also share books and images of community to encourage imagining.

You could take a particular theme for your mural, such as,

- An imagined community we would like to live in
- The real world around our school
- Our homes all coming together

You will need to prepare a space for the final mural and consider what you will mount it on. It is important that it is visually unified rather than a series of artworks next to one another.

Decide what kind of linking element and basic layout the community will have, such as painted or string roads, spirals, a wheel shape or meandering roads and set these out on the mount so the students can see what they will need to create.

Pre-cut shapes for students to decorate and piece together. Organise shapes in bins so they are easy to see and select.

Procedure

1. Introduce the activity to students.
2. Show them where the collaged mural will be.
3. Discuss the theme and the kinds of 'places' they might make – encourage creative responses.
4. Students select the shapes they wish to use and piece them together.
5. They then decorate them with pens/markers as appropriate.
6. When their 'places' are complete students place their artwork on the mural mount
7. Students will talk to each other to decide the layout of the elements of the mural.
8. The teacher can then glue the images down.

Reflection

The class should take time to reflect on this activity. This allows them to consider their actions and the way they used their thinking skills.

Whilst sitting in front of the collage ask the students to consider the following questions. Ask students to respond with thumbs up or thumbs down in response.

Are you happy with the results of our artwork?

Did you find parts of this activity confusing?

Did you find it easy to talk to others?

Did you listen well to others?

Would you like to add more parts to our 'community'?

Does the final mural look like a real community?

Some Examples

