

Message Mural

**Lesson Plan by Ginny Baughman
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Description

Mural making is a way to communicate ideas, in a similar manner to writing, but in pictures and on a lot larger scale. Mural artist Ginny Baughman will work with students in this class will be asked to brainstorm come up with a theme or a message that they want to convey together as a class. Then students will work individually on drawings based on the theme and then they will combine their efforts as collaborative group to develop, design, and complete a temporary mural on that theme. Ginny will also create a piece of artwork, which includes each student's name in it, for the mural based on the theme. Once it is finished this mural will be exhibited and at the end of the exhibit students will be able to take their own "piece" of the mural home with them!



Ages:

Ideally this class or workshop would be for middle school or 4-5 grade students. It could also easily be adjusted to accommodate older students such as high school or even adult by adding more historical information that might interest these students.

Goals and Objectives of this Class:

Student's Goals

The class will learn about different mural artists and their messages and then they will learn from a mural artist about how to design and create a mural of their own. Students will choose a theme as a group and then they will work individually and collaboratively on designs to the theme that they have chosen. Students will learn cooperation by working with the entire class to create a classroom mural that best fits the class theme and suits everyone's tastes. In the end they will also create messages that go with the mural that will help to further communicate this message to the viewers.

Teacher Goals

As a teacher I want to teach students about the art of mural making and how to create a story with pictures. I would like for them to learn about what it is like to create a mural and about other artists who have done murals, both past and present. I would also like for my students to be able to express their individual ideas in pictures and in words through their mural.

Having worked on a mural myself and documented it every step of the way, I can share my experiences with the students.

This class is also about cooperation. My goal is to help students learn how to work with their fellow students to create an end goal of a class mural that conveys a message to viewers through art and text.

Daily Activities

Each class will begin with an explanation of what will be accomplished during that day's class and then students will have the opportunity to work on their individual projects. We will also be periodically gathering as a group to discuss theme choices and then how we will accomplish that theme.

Classroom Environment and Requirements

This will have to be a large open classroom with long tables and chairs. Students will be working very large in this class, so they will have each have a space to spread out. They may each need to have a large table to themselves or share with only one other student. There will also need to be an area for sharing ideas. There should be a sink with water for clean up after painting activities. There will also need to be a space to build the classroom mural. A corkboard wall might be best if it is available to attach sketches to discuss progress and/or the canvases could be set up on the floor.

Daily Syllabus

Daily activities may be varied depending on how the class progresses. They might be lengthened or shortened depending on how quickly the class finishes the assigned project for that day.

Day #1

Students will learn about the mural making process and look at pictures of murals. Ginny Baughman will describe how her mural was created. Students will work individually on their own design ideas in watercolor for the theme of the mural. A theme for the class mural will be decided on by the class. Students will work individually or in self chosen groups and work on specific ideas for that theme.

Day #2

Students will gather as a class to have a discussion and look at everyone's design for the theme. Students will work on their individual designs for their part of the mural and draw the designs on large paper. The class will meet again and put the design together to see how it looks.

Day #3

Students will prime their canvases with a background color and they will learn how to work with acrylic paint by experimenting on a small canvas panel. Students will draw out their design on their canvases and we will assemble the canvases into the mural to see how they are working as a group.

Day #4

Students will spend this entire day working on their individual canvases. As the designs get further along the class will take breaks to put the mural together to see how it works together. As the students work on their paintings Ginny will also be working on her own piece of artwork to accent the mural by relating her painting to the theme and include each student's name in the painting as well.

Day #5

Students will finish working on their paintings for the mural. The mural will be constructed and ready to display by the end of the class. As students complete their paintings they will be asked to create small written or drawn messages on foam board that relate to the mural's theme to add to the mural.

If extra time remains, students may create a drawn mural on paper or foam board.

Mural Construction

During the last class period we will be constructing the mural. The teacher and assistants will be putting the mural pieces together under the direction of the students. The mural can be constructed against a wall, in this case a large cork board would be best. It can also be constructed on the floor by attaching the canvases together and standing them up accordion style. The mural will be constructed to allow students to be able to take their individual pieces home at the end of the class or at the end of a display period.



