You Are Here Mural
Educator Guide

Enriching the lives of children and promoting creative learning by uniting arts and education

Content Standards

Social Studies

Children deepen their learning about themselves and begin to form an understanding of roles, responsibility for actions and decision making in the context of the group setting.

The study of local history comes alive through the use of artifacts and documents. They also learn how communities are governed and how the local economy is organized.

Terms related to direction and distance, as well as symbols and landmarks, can be used to talk about the relative location of familiar places.

Visual Art

Demonstrate technical skill, craftsmanship, and reasoning abilities in solving visual art problems using appropriate tools, media, and technology.

Produce artworks that express and represent their experiences, imagination and ideas using a range of media including new technologies.

Connect making art with individual choice and understanding personal cultural identity.

About the Program

Based upon the common map element that declares “YOU ARE HERE”, students create a clay map depicting their school and the neighborhood and environment that surround it with the help of artist Mark Yasenchack. The map invites all students to share what they see in the neighborhood. This includes houses, buildings, trees, animals, faces, birds and cars. Involve the whole school to share individual observations. Ideally, pre-K through 1st graders can make the specific clay elements that represent their community and the concept of 'HERE'. Older students can underglaze those pieces and design the field tiles and borders of the mural.

Objectives

1. **Demonstrate** tool techniques and hand techniques.
2. **Represent and Abstract** the idea of ‘here’ and the concepts of a map.
3. **Translate** an understanding of community into sculptures to be used as tiles in a mural.
4. **Understand** the ceramic process, plasticity, dried clay, bisque clay, kiln, glaze.
5. **Create** unique forms that represent their community.
Review maps and community location on a map, finding your place on a map and following one.

Visit Google Earth and view communities from both satellite and map views.

Create fictitious maps for imaginary places.

Collage with old highway maps to create letters out of highways or islands with pieced together shorelines.

Piece together a map for a book the class has read, collaborative effort that includes a legend and landmarks.

Write stories/testimonies about their experience working in a collaborative team.

**Vocabulary**

**Mosaic:** A picture or decoration made of small, usually colored pieces of inlaid stone, glass, etc.

**Clay:** A natural earthy material that is plastic when wet used for making bricks, pottery, etc.

**Map Legends:** A table on a map, chart or the like, listing and explaining the symbols used

**Sculpt:** To carve, model or make by using the techniques of sculpture

**Design:** An outline, sketch, or plan, as of the form and structure of a work of art

**About Mark Yasenchack**

While finding an interest in art during high school it wasn't until Mark Yasenchack’s junior year in college that he took his first wheel throwing class and found a passion working in clay. Mark graduated with a B.S. Degree in Science from Baldwin-Wallace College but quickly found out how well it combined with a career in art. There is an analytical yet creative approach to scientific research that enhances his approach to teaching artistic processes by adding a depth to the content of lessons.

**Resources**

Maps.nationalgeographic.com

Mark’s Yasenchack Website markyasenchackteachingartist.wordpress.com/

Roman Mosaics: Over 60 Full-Color Images from the 4th Through the 13th Centuries by Joseph Wilpert

**About the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning**

Through a balance of demonstration and audience participation, the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning teaching artist performances and workshops introduce students to an art form, support various curricular areas, and inject excitement and wonder into the school day.