

Country of Origin: México

Diego Rivera - A Man and His Murals

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Recommended Grades: 7th - College

Murals, graffiti and street art are everywhere these days, what stories do they tell? Take a step back in time and learn about Diego Rivera, often referred to as the founder of the muralist movement in Mexico. Through observation and discussion of Diego's work, students will learn about the social and political themes included in many of his murals. After understanding how symbolism and color play an integral role in conveying ideas, students will create a collaborative mural illustrating current social and political issues facing them today.

Colorado Standards: Social Studies, Visual Arts, Language Arts

Objective: To introduce students to the life and work of artist Diego Rivera through images and discussion. Students will learn about Rivera through his early works to one of his most iconic murals. They will learn how his fresco murals used symbolism, colors to convey his ideology and political views. Students will use these lessons to create their own collaborative mural.

Exit Ticket/Deliverable: Students will have a basic comprehension of how images can tell a story and how we can break down art to understand its meaning without having words to guide us. They will also have a basic understanding of how images are viewed from our unique perspectives, cultural backgrounds and history.

Art Component: Students will create a collaborative mural with classmates. Students will brainstorm ideas for the mural based on current social, political & global issues. They will think about solutions for these issues as well as bring attention to things they value and feel are important. They will work as a group to create one mural encompassing their ideas. All students will have a job related to creating the mural from drawing and painting to organizing and cleaning.

Vocabulary: Collaboration, Communism, Fresco, Mural