

Creative Response

Diego

by Jeannette and Jonah Winter



Materials

- Tempera paint
- Paintbrushes
- Tape
- Pencils
- Overhead projector
- Newspapers
- Butcher paper
- Overhead transparency of an illustration from *Diego*

Rivera Mural

Overview

Students create a group mural in the style of Diego Rivera by projecting a picture onto butcher paper and using it as a drawing/painting guide. Alternatively, they paint their own Rivera-like paintings (see Variation below).

Directions

1. Review the pictures in the book *Diego*. Discuss how the colors used are like Diego Rivera's murals. Explain that a mural is a picture painted on a large surface. The frames around the illustrations make them look even more like actual painting.
2. Tape the butcher paper to the wall so that it covers a large space.
3. Tape newspaper to the floor and wall under the mural to catch drips.
4. Set up the overhead projector so it displays on the paper. Project an image of an illustration from the book onto the butcher paper by placing it on the overhead projector.
6. Have students work together using pencils to lightly and carefully sketch general outlines of shapes.
7. Once the main shapes are in place, turn off the projector and fill in a few details in pencil.
8. After completing a good pencil outline of the mural, discuss what colors should be used to complete the mural. It is best to come up with a basic design plan before starting the painting process.
9. Encourage students to take their time to reduce the amount of paint spilled or applied in unintended places.
10. When dry, consider adding additional details to the mural.

Variation

For an individual, rather than group, activity, students can create their own Diego-like paintings on heavy white paper. For an added effect, have students create a colorful border before painting the scene in the middle. Use rulers to establish the border lines.