

IF WALLS COULD SPEAK (LEVEL 3)

Description	In this project, learners imagine that they are street artists and will draw a scene/character/event/message that is meaningful for their community.
Leading Question	What can we tell others through walls?
Total Time Required	3.5 hours across 4 days
Supplies Required	Postal or craft paper, chalk, red and black paint, colors, waxed paper
Subjects	History, Geography, Art and Design
Supervision	Medium
Learning Outcomes	By the end of this project, learners will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand how walls and art can convey meaning. 2. Represent their neighborhood through a map. 3. Design a street mural on one city's wall that represents a hero, a daily event, or a message of hope for the community.
Previous Learning	None
Inspiration	https://arteascuola.com/2016/03/street-art-puppets/ https://outofeden.s3.amazonaws.com/Creating+and+Sharing+Neighborhood+Maps.pdf

DAY 1 - Today, we will learn about how walls can communicate a message.

Suggested Duration	Activity and Description
5 minutes	Answer the following question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are walls for? <p>(You can say that walls are for separating spaces, maintaining privacy, protecting from the outside, protecting the city from the outside, marking the beginning of private property, etc.)</p>
10 minutes	Walls can also be used as murals and to communicate messages.


For example, there is rupestrian art.

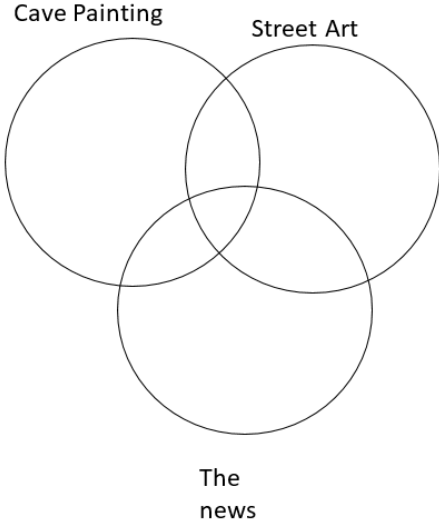
- Ex. 1. Cave Paintings (rupestrian art)

If possible, look at this image - or any image- of rupestrian art.



	<p>Or imagine what these looked like.</p> <p>These were painted in caves many many years ago (thousands of years ago).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can you see/imagine the kinds of things that were painted? (Animals, hunting scenes, hands, some patterns, etc.). - Can you see/imagine the kinds of colors that they used? (Earth colors, such as red, black, brown) Why do you think they used these specific colors? <p>What tools do you think they used to draw? (Their hands, bones, sticks, etc.)</p> <p>These walls tell us many things! What are some of these things that our ancestors are telling us through these walls in the caves?</p> <p>(For instance, they tell us about what people did at that time, the materials that they had available to them, the tools that they used for hunting, how tall they were, what they thought important to keep track of, etc.)</p>
<p>30 minutes</p>	<p>Activity: Your own Cave Painting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kind of scenes would you draw if you wanted to keep track of what people in your community do every day? <p>Engage in a conversation. Create a storyboard of your daily lives that you would like to portray in your own cave painting.</p> <p>Draw a mural with scenes from your lives at home in “rupestrian style.”</p> <p>Tape some postal/ kraft paper/regular paper/ cardboard on the wall with painters' tape (You can use old boxes for creating this canvas).</p> <p>You can use red and black paint and white chalk if available, but you can also use soil and try to “discover” natural pigments.</p>
<p>5 minutes</p>	<p>After you have finished, reflect about your creative process:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><i>The reason I chose to show these particular activities and not other activities that my community does is because</i></p> </div>

	<p><i>A particular challenge for me was...</i></p> <p><i>An awesome success for me was...</i></p>
<p>15 minutes</p>	<p>Ex. 2. Graffiti and street art</p> <p>Here's a more contemporary take on using walls to convey a message! Walls can also be the canvas for wonderful works of art that connect people in cities and towns.</p> <p>Answer the following question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you seen street art before? If yes, where? (Walls, gates, roads, etc.) <p>You can try to remember with your peers or instructors places in your city or community where there are examples of this (if there are). Also, you can look at these images:</p> 

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What stands out for you about street art? - What do you find exciting about street art? - What are street artists showing us? - What can be controversial about street art? - How is street art different from cave paintings? How are they similar? <p>One way in which street art and cave paintings are similar is that they communicate to people in the neighborhood what the day-to-day experiences of the community are like. This is, in a way, similar to what the news does. Do you agree with this? Why or why not? What are ways in which cave paintings, street art, and local news are similar? What are ways in which they are different?</p> <p>Organize your thoughts on a Venn Diagram like this one:</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
<p>15 minutes</p>	<p>Literacy extension: Write two paragraphs explaining the main similarities/differences between street art and cave paintings. Use connectors or transition words such as “unlike”, “on the contrary”, “similarly”, “in a similar fashion...”, “however”, etc.</p> <p>Have you ever painted on a wall? What were you trying to do? What happened when you did? Most likely, you’ve gotten in trouble for scribbling on walls, since it can ruin the painting. Street artists also get in trouble sometimes.</p>

	<p>In this project we are going to pretend that we are street artists and we are going to paint a mural on the street's walls!</p> <p>Painting on walls is difficult and can get us in trouble if we don't have permission to do it. Why do you think this is the case? Why is it wrong to paint on public property without permission?</p> <p>In this project, we are going to create your own depiction of your neighborhood and try to understand some of the messages or ideas that walls can tell people around the neighborhood.</p> <p>At the end of the project, we'll have a representation of your neighborhood and a beautiful street art piece to go with it.</p>
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DAY 2 - Today, we will aim to understand our neighborhood better, and think about what story or characters we want our street art to represent.

Suggested Duration	Activity and Description
30 minutes	<p>Take some time to walk around your neighborhood or local area.</p> <p>In a classroom setting, you can go around the school's neighborhood with others. You can also go around with your peers or instructors if they are at home.</p> <p>Here are some questions that might guide your exploration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are some places or landmarks that are meaningful to you? - Do you have memories that take place in any of these places? - What are some places or spaces for gatherings? - Is there a place that is representative of what people do for fun in your community? - Is there a historical site or an upcoming venue that is interesting to you?

15 minutes	<p>Show your map and tell the story that you came up with to someone else in your family and/or community (a friend, a family member, someone from an older generation, a neighbor, a teacher, etc.).</p> <p>Explore connections between that person’s experience of the neighborhood and your map/neighborhood. Ask the person to talk to you about a place or places in the neighborhood that are important to them.</p> <p>If any of these places appear on your map, be sure to mark them. Annotate the map together to include, for example, places that they love (could add a heart), additional places that need to be featured, additional routes, differences between routes, etc. You can use markers, pens, 3D materials like cardboard (and glue/tape), stickers, labels—anything you like to demonstrate the connections the person is seeing.</p> <p>Also, make sure that together you think about interesting walls and annotate the place on the map.</p>
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DAY 3 - Today, we will be learning more about the walls in our neighborhood.

Suggested Duration	Activity and Description			
20 minutes for walking around (dependent on the neighborhood)	<p>Go back around the neighborhood or local area, looking carefully at the walls, keeping in mind the conversation that you had on Day 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mark 5 walls on the map - Fill this table as you go around <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;"></td> <td style="width: 35%;"> <p>Interesting features (What are they made of? -brick, clay, etc., - size, functions, how old they are, how many bricks do they have? What’s their area, etc?)</p> </td> <td style="width: 35%;"> <p>What would this wall tell me if it could speak? (I.e. What are some scenes that happen in front of it or behind it that could depict in a cave style? What is a message that would be relevant to have in that place?)</p> </td> </tr> </table>		<p>Interesting features (What are they made of? -brick, clay, etc., - size, functions, how old they are, how many bricks do they have? What’s their area, etc?)</p>	<p>What would this wall tell me if it could speak? (I.e. What are some scenes that happen in front of it or behind it that could depict in a cave style? What is a message that would be relevant to have in that place?)</p>
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	Wall #1		
	Wall #2		
	Wall #3		

	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="464 262 625 617">Wall #4</td> <td data-bbox="631 262 1019 617"></td> <td data-bbox="1026 262 1391 617"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="464 625 625 1026">Wall #5</td> <td data-bbox="631 625 1019 1026"></td> <td data-bbox="1026 625 1391 1026"></td> </tr> </table> <p data-bbox="561 1079 1224 1108">- Are there important differences between the walls?</p>	Wall #4			Wall #5		
Wall #4							
Wall #5							
<p data-bbox="241 1186 380 1215">10 minutes</p>	<p data-bbox="464 1186 1373 1255">Choose one wall that you thought was particularly interesting and mark it on your original map.</p> <p data-bbox="464 1293 724 1323">Answer this question:</p> <div data-bbox="464 1360 1403 1543" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p data-bbox="477 1379 1143 1409">What I found interesting about this wall was that.....</p> <p data-bbox="477 1486 1094 1516">If this wall could speak, it would tell me that.....</p> </div>						
<p data-bbox="201 1619 422 1749">20 min to find the people 5 - 10 min interviewing</p>	<p data-bbox="464 1619 1406 1717">After this, go back and interview three different people in the neighborhood, or at home to see what they think about what that wall would tell them if it could speak.</p>						

Some possible interview prompts to guide the interviewed people (you can choose to focus on one or two):

- A memory or something that happened to them around that wall
- A story about that wall that they have heard from someone else
- How has that wall changed over time
- What that wall represents to them
- A message that would be important for people who this wall

Write down your notes on the following table:

	<i>What I learned from them about the wall that I found interesting</i>
Person 1	
Person 2	
Person 3	

To reflect on the interviews, identify differences between what you think about the wall, and what other people in the community think about it.

Answer the following:

- What stands out about this diagram?
- What are some new insights that you have about your community after your conversations?
- What are some new insights that you have about the purposes of walls after your conversations?

Day 4 - Today, we will be drawing your own street art and you will present it.

Suggested Duration	Activity and Description
<p>1 hour</p>	<p>Draw on a piece of paper the wall that you have been thinking about throughout the project.</p> <p>Write down in a piece of paper the message that you want to share.</p> <div data-bbox="467 678 1404 747" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>If this wall could speak, it would tell us that.....</p> </div> <p>The drawing needs to be big enough so that you can make your street start on top of it. (Alternatively, and if there is a camera available, you can go around the neighborhood and take pictures that you can paint over).</p> <p>Add waxed paper on top of the drawing of the house and make your own street art based on your reflections about that wall and your conversations with people in the neighborhood!</p> <p>Here are some tips for thinking about street art:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invent a character that represents someone who has done a lot for connecting your community - Give your personal touch to the body and face (no need to respect the proportions) - Adapt the position of the body to the space to be decorated - Think of an object or an activity (the character has to do something with some object) - Tell a story (the character can think/feel/communicate emotions, a message or an intention) - Draw a background, realistic or abstract - Draw and color in pencil on tracing paper. You can also redraw the contours with a thin black marker - Put your own TAG (your signature with an alias) <p>Here are some examples of what the drawings can look like:</p>



After you finish, present your street art to your family members and community. If you are doing this in a classroom setting, there can be a final exhibit of student mini-street art.

After you have finished, reflect again on your creative process:

	A particular challenge for me was...
	An awesome success for me was...
	Compared to Day 2, the challenges and successes were.....

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

A majority of my learners were able to:

- Create their own cave painting with daily scenes and local materials.
- Identify challenges and successes in their creative processes.
- Create their own map of their neighborhood and annotate it.
- Demonstrate their understanding of the idea of “walls that speak” by providing examples of things that walls in their neighborhood could say.
- Creatively express what they think a wall could say if it could speak about their community.
- Conduct interviews and contrast other people’s perspectives about their ideas.