

## “Collaborative Mural”



**Objective:** Students will work collaboratively to create original mural designs

### Materials

- Large paper (I just rip off large pieces of roll paper)
- Pencils
- Sharpies
- Cake Tempera Paint and/or watercolor paint
- Various paint brushes

### Motivation

- Show students examples of Diego Rivera’s (or your favorite muralist’s) work. The book *Diego* by Jonah Winter is a great resource.
- Discuss how working in a group is different than working alone. All students’ ideas must be included; all art styles must be celebrated. Thoroughly frontloading these topics really helps with disagreements later in the process. You may want to role-play different situations that may arise: What if two students want to draw in the same space? What if someone has a different style than someone else?

### Step 1: Drawing in Pencil

After dividing into groups of 3-5 students, it works best to give each group a theme. You could give each group the same theme such as “Spring” or “Friendship” or give each group something different based on classroom studies such as “countries around the world” or “habitats.” Designate a few minutes of planning time **WITHOUT** pencils, and then have them start drawing.

### Step 2: Trace in Sharpie

Because students will be adding paint, I find that having students trace over their pencil lines is a nice middle step. Alternately, you could have students paint first and do some outlining later.

### Step 3: Paint Murals

Discuss where students might want to use different sizes of brushes, large for larger areas and small for smaller areas. I love tempera cake paint for this project, but watercolors or liquid watercolors would work well too. Encourage students to paint slowly and carefully and to all be on the same page before painting any large background areas.

**Tips:** It usually takes my students one class period to draw, one to trace and one to two class periods to paint their murals. Instead of raffling off murals or cutting them into sections to send home with students, consider taking and printing photos of the murals for students to keep instead.