
HAITI

ELEMENTARY LEVEL

Haitian Mural Activity

- **Purpose:** the purpose of this activity is to give students an opportunity to learn more about Haitian culture, and to see the positive, rich cultural vibrancy of the country.
- **Instructional method(s):** independent research in the library, class cooperation, creative freedom.
- **Differentiated Instruction:**
 - Assign students to research groups.
 - Arrange all research material prior to the scheduled day.
 - Allow students to create individual pictures relaying their research instead of creating a class mural.
- **Estimated time:** continuous project covering two one hour periods
- **Steps:**
 1. In advance of this lesson plan, book library time for one class period.
 2. Explain to students that Haiti has a rich and colourful culture. Tell the class that they are going to work together to celebrate Haitian culture by building a creative visual mural of this culture.
 3. Ask students the following suggested questions about their class mural:
 - What is a mural?
 - What makes a good mural?
 - What are some of the important components we must include in our mural? (e.g. is a title important?)
 - What materials would you like to see used on this mural? (e.g. paint, markers, printed pictures, etc.)
 - What would you like the mural to tell others in the school?
 4. List the following topics on the board: food, language, art, traditional dress, life in Haitian cities, life in the Haitian countryside, employment, traditional celebrations, and government.
 5. Ask students to volunteer details they know about the various topics of Haitian culture (e.g.: food, language, art, etc.)
 6. Allow students to choose an area of interest and write their name beside the topics, based on what topic they would like to work on.
 7. Bring students to the library during your scheduled session and encourage them to use the resources available to find information on their chosen topic.
 8. Students must research their chosen topic. When this research is complete, they must determine how to represent their findings on the class mural (e.g. if a student is researching language, they may want to paint phrases in creole on the mural).
 9. When students have compiled the information they would like to include in the class mural, return to the classroom and lay out the brown craft paper.
 10. Encourage the class to work together and let their creativity flow.
 11. Display the completed mural in a hallway in the school.