

Memory Maps

Junior Division (grades 3 – 5)

Goals:

1. Student will begin to understand and appreciate how art reveals information about the person who made it.
2. Student will begin to think about how to symbolize and abstract the world around them.

Connection to Curriculum:

A. Making

1. Painting – Skills: Students explore creating textures and colors in paint.
2. Collage – Skills: Students refine cutting and gluing (fine motor) skills.

B. Literacy

1. Visual Art Vocabulary – Students use appropriate vocabulary.
2. Sharing with Others – Students participate in class discussion.
3. Apply Understandings – Students recognize multiple possible responses.

C. Context

1. Connect Art to Other Disciplines – how do road maps and political maps reflect decisions made by the cartographer?

Materials:

Drawing paper, construction paper, tempera, brushes, water cups, oil pastel, colored pencil, scissors, glue, pencils, black sharpies, rulers, crayons.

Sequence:

1. Students draw a map of the school in their sketchbook.
2. Discussion on differences that arise in the maps: “What did you start drawing first? Why?” Take polls to see who included the gym, the office, the art room, the cafeteria...why would some people include these things and not others?
3. Introduce project: Maps use symbolic colors, and shapes. Your challenge is to create a symbolic map out of collaged papers that reflects what is important to you at this school. How do you show what is important to you? Color? Detail? Size? What do you leave out?
4. Students create painted papers to create a range of textures and colors to choose from.
5. Students collage their maps.
6. Students share their maps and the decisions they made. Students look at work of other artists who use maps, and at decisions made by cartographers.

Assessment:

Is the student able to explain why s/he made the decision s/he did?

Is the student able to identify decisions that other artists made and think of possible reasons for making these decisions?

Is the student using tools and materials appropriately?