

PUZZLE “PAINTINGS”

Materials: white drawing or construction paper, crayons, markers, colored pencils, oil pastels, scissors, masking, large mailing, and scotch tape, rulers, glue, oak tag, pencils, large manila pocket envelopes, assorted colors large construction paper (18 X 24), newspaper.

Teacher preparation:

White paper needs to be either 8 ½ X 11 or 9 X 12, cut it to size if needed. You need enough paper for each student to have one sheet (add lots of extra to be safe). Determine which artists' work students will reproduce. I used Goya, Greco, Picasso, Miró, Dali and Velázquez. Search the internet for paintings which will be fairly simple to reproduce. Make sure there isn't too much detail in the work...also select paintings which won't be considered offensive. Copy and paste paintings into a Word document and enlarge to fit entire 8 ½ X 11 sheet of paper. Print in color. Also print a smaller version of the painting which students will be able to refer to during the project. Continue this process until you have enough paintings. (Ideally, it would be nice for each group to have a different painting, but it isn't always possible.) Laminate the large and small copies. Cut the large copy into 4 or 6 pieces depending on the number of students per group. Place the pieces in envelopes labeled with the artist's name, painting name, and number of puzzle pieces. Attach the small copy of the painting with a paper clip on the outside of the envelope. Cut oak tag into 4 inch strips for frames. (Multiply the number of groups times four to determine how many strips needed.)

Day 1: Biography information on artists, books, magazines, calendars with artists' work to show

Introduce students to Spanish artists. Have them take notes. Include name of artist, year of birth and death, style of painting that artist is famous for, and a few interesting facts. Show several pieces of each artist's work. I only spent 5-7 minutes per artist because I wanted to do this in one class period.

Day 2: pencil, white paper, puzzle pieces, large manila pocket envelope

Explain how puzzle painting will be done.

1. Each group gets a puzzle.
2. Each student gets a puzzle piece.
3. Students need to copy their piece onto the white paper. Obviously, this will greatly enlarge the finished project. Emphasize that groups must decide whether or not they will draw on their sheet vertically or horizontally otherwise they puzzle won't fit correctly when put together. (Several groups found this out the hard way.) Also, students need to match up their work to make sure that lines and features connect properly (especially when doing faces). Tell groups that they cannot begin coloring work until it all matches up. Place unfinished drawings and envelope with puzzle pieces into the pocket folder with their group (artist) name and class period.

Day 3: pencil, drawing, puzzle pieces, large manila pocket envelope, crayons, colored pencils, markers, oil pastels, rulers, newspaper

Continue sketching paintings. Check to make sure that the pieces will all fit. Groups need to decide which medium they want to use: crayons, markers, colored pencils or oil pastels. Students need to begin coloring today. Make sure that those using oil pastels and markers place newspaper underneath their paper so it doesn't bleed through to the table. Place unfinished drawings and envelope with puzzle pieces into the pocket folder

with their group (artist) name and class period. Students using crayons should place them in the folder so they can continue with the same color tomorrow. Students using oil pastels should place newspaper between each drawing before placing it in folder so it doesn't bleed or smear into another drawing.

Day 4: Glue, construction paper, tape, oak tag, crayons, markers, colored pencils, oil pastels, newspaper, drawings

Finish coloring painting. Choose color of construction paper to complement painting...this will be used as a mat for the artwork. Students need to take two pieces of construction paper (the finished product won't fit on one piece.) Use masking tape to tape the seams together. Flip it over and center pieces on construction paper. Glue pieces onto construction paper. Students will need four pieces of oak tag for frame. Leave approximately one-inch border of construction paper showing and lay out oak tag lightly securing it with masking tape (placed underneath oak tag so it doesn't show.) Students should play around with it until it looks right (one inch mat and everything is straight.) Once they like the way it looks, use lots of masking tape to really secure the frame. Cut off excess construction paper and oak tag. What should be left is the puzzle painting with a border and frame. Students should decorate the frame as they wish.

Grading:

This project was worth 50 points; 25 individual points and 25 group points.

Student earned 25 points if individual piece was completed.

To earn all 25 group points, pieces had to be assembled correctly, glued, matted and framed. Five points off for each step that was not completed. By assembled correctly, pieces all had to fit (meaning they were all going the same way) and be aligned with each other showing that they did work as a group checking on each other's progress.

Display:

Hang "paintings" in a gallery style, preferably around the school where they can be admired by everyone...these are too good to leave in the classroom! And they are quite large once they are matted and framed. I chose a large wall and placed all artwork by one artist together. If there are duplicate paintings, hang those side by side. Place the small downloaded copy of the artwork beside the students' puzzle artwork so that viewers can see the comparison. Display a sign with the name of the Spanish artist, year of birth and death, and style of painting for which artist is known. Choose a new wall for the next artist. Be prepared to convey all compliments back to students!

Reflection:

This requires lots of prior planning (I mean a lot!) But good planning makes the project run smoothly. I played popular music (Chayanne, Shakira, Mark Anthony, Selena, Las Ketchup) with a featured artist of the day – students really enjoyed listening to it. I would probably allow one more day for project. I couldn't finish all artists' biographies on day 1 and spent part of day 2 finishing them. Some groups were rushed getting their frames done. A full three days needs to be allotted for completion however some groups will finish early so something needs to be planned for them to work on. If any groups have five members, they will need a six-piece puzzle and someone will have to do two pieces. If possible, have students help with hanging...it took two teachers, 2 ½ hours to hang 35 pictures (mainly, because it takes time tearing tape, folding it and placing it.) Maybe the last class of the day could help en masse or ask for volunteers to stay after school. It really helps to be on good terms with the art teachers...they are invaluable! Students were very well behaved and extremely pleased with the finished project. Me too!