



hands-on lessons that

Creative Cityscapes

Take students on a journey through the Big Apple to provide inspiration for their own creative cityscape collages.

Grade Level: 1-5

Objectives

- Students will identify common characteristics of big cities.
- Students will compare cities with rural and suburban communities.
- Students will create a cityscape collage as a culminating activity.

Literature Selections

- This Is New York* by Miroslav Sasek
- This Is San Francisco* by Miroslav Sasek

Skills

reading, social studies, fine motor skills

Set up and Prepare

Introduce the lesson by asking students to close their eyes and picture a big city in their minds. Tell them to tap into their senses as if they were actually in a city. What would they see, hear, and smell? After they've had a chance to think about the characteristics of a city, ask them to open their eyes and list as many "city words" they can remember on a piece of paper. Take time to discuss their lists. How does the city they imagined compare to their own community? Write the words *urban*, *suburban*, and *rural* on the board or chart paper. Discuss the differences between the three types of communities. Ask students to share characteristics of each and add to the chart.

Next, read *This Is New York* aloud to the students, pausing throughout to discuss the cultural influences that make New York City unique. As you read, make a list of all of the "biggest things" the author describes. After you've finished reading the story, ask students to identify the illustrative style. Explain that they will be creating their own cityscapes in the same style. More advanced students may incorporate principles of perspective and depth in their collages.



Materials

Elmer's Clear School Glue Sticks or Elmer's Disappearing Purple Glue Sticks, newspapers, magazines, scissors, construction paper (Note: Clear Glue Sticks are repositionable making it easier for students to adjust objects in their collages as they create them.)

Preparation

Provide each student with a large piece of construction paper. Encourage them to search through the magazines and newspapers for images that might work well in their collage.

Extensions

Explore the other city books in Miroslav Sasek's series. Compare and contrast New York City with London, San Francisco, or Paris.

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