

Global Culture- Colombian Puppetry Arts

Objective: Students will use paper bags to create a glove puppet in the style of the traditional Colombian puppeteers.

Topics & Keywords for Discussion:

Collage: a piece of art made by sticking various different materials such as photographs and pieces of paper or fabric on to a backing.

Puppet: a movable model of a person or animal that is used in entertainment or storytelling.



Materials: paper bags, cartoon printouts, scissors, glue stick, colored paper/construction paper.

Background information: Colombia has a long history of giant puppets parading through the towns during big major festivals every year. Puppetry theater became a popular folkloric art in the early 20th century, as celebrate characters were brought from town to town by traveling minstrel performers. The first puppetry festival was held in 1963, and to this day many national cultural organizations and foundations support the furthering of puppetry

Opening activity: HAND PUPPETS! Invite students to invent a character using just their hand, and choose a few students to bring their character to life, with a voice and personality all their own! You can interview their hand puppet one by one to learn their name and background.

Core Activity: Distribute scissors, colored paper and copies of the cartoon features for them to design and produce their own character puppets. THEN, distribute paper bags and glue sticks. Instruct students that a finished puppet has a face with all facial features, and a costume or outfit. Have them KEEP their hands OUT of the bags until they are finished!

Older students can also team up and create a short puppet theater performance based on their characters, developing a 2-5 minute story to share with the class.

Reflection: As students are cleaning up the space, have them share their finished character with each other, and invite them to pair up and improvise a conversation between puppets!