

Global Culture- Colombian Puppetry Arts

Objective: Students will use craft supplies to create a unique puppet in the style of 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: cardstock, boxes, craft sticks, duck tape, newsprint, aluminum foil, cartoon printouts, scissors, craft glue, 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 celebrity 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. Here is a video about puppetry arts in Colombia: <https://youtu.be/0AtBEqvKOH0> .

Opening activity: TIME TO MAKE THE 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: Have students form teams to design and build a large puppet, bigger than a human hand, distribute pencils and paper for them to begin sketching their ideas. Ask each team to develop a character with their puppet- give it a name, a hometown, a goal, some personality characteristics. Have one student from each team come up to the supplies table to get what their team needs, make sure they are returning supplies that are no longer in use. As they build, provide encouragement- this is no small task! Remind them to continuously test their puppet so they build it to MOVE, as they apply tape and glue their puppets may become too stiff to move. NOTE- this lesson MAY TAKE TIME, perhaps an entire WEEK to complete!

Reflection: As students are cleaning up the space, have each team introduce their puppet and invite teams to pair up and improvise a conversation between puppets!



