

AGNES LEARNS



Creative collages

GRADES 4-6

Collage is a fun and exciting type of artmaking that uses recycled and repurposed materials that you have around the house.

Explore collage with the following activities:

ART ACTIVITIES

Invent a mythical creature

Search through a magazine for images of animals. Cut them out and mix and match parts of different animals to create a new creature. For example, you could put the head of a snake on the body of a giraffe, or you could take an image of a dog and draw wings for it. Let your imagination go wild!

Create a collage on a subject that's important to you

Choose a subject or theme for your collage. It could be anything: your love of cats, your favourite sport, climate change. Collect materials for your collage. You can use photographs, drawings, clippings from magazines and newspapers, scraps of wrapping paper and anything else you can recycle from around the house. Place your materials on a piece of paper and move them around until you like their arrangement. Stick them to the paper. Try several collage techniques such as:

- layering and overlapping images;
- tearing some edges and cutting others;
- including an object that's 3D or has an interesting texture;
- using a marker to draw over some images and emphasize certain things,
- using shapes, patterns and colours to create an abstract collage.



Napoleon Brousseau

Untitled (131-245 NB91)

1991, mixed media and photo-collage on paper
Gift of Dr Margret Hovanec and Dr Peter Warrian, 2005
(48-035.50)

If you'd like to extend the lesson beyond visual art, here are some other activities

Compose a collage poem

Cut out words and pictures you like from an old newspaper, book or magazine; they can be all different sizes, colours and fonts. Create a poem by placing the words in a new and unique order. Then glue the words down on a piece of paper and decorate with pictures that add meaning to your poem.

Fridge poems

To create a poem that can change over time, add a sticky magnetic back to each word or short phrase and place them on your fridge. You can compose a new poem every day.

Create a collected object habitat

Use objects around your home to create a "collage" of an animal's habitat. Start by doing some online research about an animal of your choice (the Bowerbird is a fun example). With permission, collect materials and objects from around your home that represent or symbolize your creature's habitat, and move them around on the backdrop, such as a blanket, until you like the arrangement. On a piece of paper, make a legend to explain what each object represents in your animal's habitat.

GLOSSARY

Collage: A collage is a unique work of art made by combining different materials such as photos, magazine clippings and small objects onto a surface such as a piece of paper. The term comes from the french word *coller* which means to paste or glue.

Abstract: In art, when something's abstract, it means that the artist isn't trying to make something look real. They use shapes, colours and lines to express their idea.

Habitat: A habitat is the natural environment where a particular animal, plant or other organism lives.