



Collaborative transformations

GRADES 1–3

Transformations was made by artists working together. Explore the following activities to see how teamwork can create something awesome!

Art Activities

Transform the city

On a large sheet of paper, draw shapes that resemble buildings in a cityscape. Cut little pieces of magazines, newspapers or coloured paper and glue them to your buildings to create your own collaged graffiti mural. After it has dried, use markers to draw details onto your buildings like windows, doors, words and more. You can do this activity by yourself or with a group of friends.

Transform the classroom

Write your name in large letters in the middle of a piece of paper—you could do this in bubble or block letters. Next, add drawings inside the letters and around your name that represent your interests and style. To turn your word art into a group mural, ask classmates, friends or family to write and decorate their own names, then put them up side by side on a wall.

Transform the sidewalk

Use chalk to make a temporary mural outside. With your friends, plan out your ideas together. Decide if each person will get their own section or if everyone will draw each part together. If you want to save your art, take photos of it!

Oriah Scott, EronOne, HONE, HUNGR, AJ Little, Emily May Rose, *Transformations*, 2022, spray paint on brick. Site-specific commission by Agnes Etherington Art Centre, 2022. Photo Tim Forbes

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

Write about your art (language)

Write an artist statement for one of your artworks. What was your favourite material to make art with? How does your artwork represent who you are? What is your favorite detail that you included? Do you like working as a team?

Create a tableau with teamwork (drama)

Play a few rounds of the tableau game "I am a tree". With a group of friends, stand in a big circle. One person goes into the middle and holds a pose and says what they are acting out, for example, "I am a tree". Then another person joins them and adds to the picture with another pose. They also say what they are posed as, for example, "I am a bird sitting under the tree". Continue until everyone is has joined the tableau.

Make a list of shapes (math)

Go for a walk in your community and look for art. Art is everywhere: keep your eyes open for graffiti, posters, statues and more! Take photos of what you find. At home, make a list of the types of shapes you see in each artwork. With your findings, make a chart or graph with how many of each shape you saw. What shapes are used the most in public art? Which ones are used the least?



Photo Paul Litherland



Photo Tim Forbes

Glossary

Mural: A painting or other artwork made directly on a wall or ceiling that was designed for that space.

Graffiti: A type of art that is painted or drawn on walls, buildings or other surfaces, often in public spaces.

Collage: A collage is a unique work of art made by combining different materials such as photos, magazine clippings and small objects on a surface such as a piece of paper.

Tableau: A group of motionless figures representing a scene from a story, a theme or an abstract idea.