

IF WALLS COULD SPEAK

Ages 8 to 10 (Level 2)

Description:	In this project, learners imagine that they are street artists and will draw a scene/character/event/message that is meaningful for their community.		
Leading question:	What can we tell others through walls?		
Age group:	8-10		
Subjects:	Art, Geography, History		
Learning outcomes:	 Understand how walls can convey meaning Represent their neighborhood through a map Design a street mural on one wall that represents a hero, a daily event, or a message of hope for the community. 		
Concepts and skills covered:	 Cave art Street Art Local history Urban geography Walls 		
Required previous learning	None		
Total time required:	3.5 hours across 4 days		
Self-guided / Supervised activity:	Medium supervision		
Resources required:	Paper, chalk, pencils, paints, colors		

Day	Time	Activity and Description	
1	5 min	Ask the learners: What are walls for? (Learners can say that walls are for separating spaces, maintaining privacy, protecting from the outside, protecting the city from the outside, marking the beginning of private property, etc.)	
	10 min	Walls can also be used as murals and to communicate messages. Ask the learners, can you imagine how?	
		For example, there is rupestrian art.	
		Ex. 1. Cave Paintings (rupestrian art)	
		If possible, show this image - or any image- of rupestrian art to children.	
		Otherwise help them imagine what these looked like.	







These were painted in caves many many years ago (thousands of years ago), when people lived in caves.

- Can you see/imagine the kinds of things that were painted? (Animals, hunting scenes, hands, some patterns, etc.).
- Can you see/imagine the kinds of colors that they used? (earth colors, such as red, black, brown) Why do you think they used these specific colors?
- What tools do you think they used to draw? (Their hands, bones, sticks, etc.)

(Spend some time listening to the learner's answers and engage in a conversation).

These walls tell us many things! What are some of these things that our ancestors are telling us through these walls in the caves?

(For instance, they tell us about what people did at that time, the materials that they had available to them, the tools that they used for hunting, how tall they were, etc.)



30 min Activity: Your own Cave Painting. What kind of scenes would you draw if you wanted to keep track of what people in your community do every day? (Spend some time listening to the learner's answers and engage in a conversation. Lead them to 2 - 3 scenes of their daily lives that they would like to portray in their own cave painting). Invite learners to draw a mural with scenes from their lives at home in "rupestrian style." Tape some paper or cardboard on the wall with tape. Learners can use red and black paint and white chalk if available, but they can also use soil and try to "discover" natural pigments. 5 min After learners have finished, let them reflect about their creative process: The reason I chose to show these particular activities and not other activities that my community does is because.... A particular challenge for me was... An awesome success for me was... Ex. 2. Graffiti and street art 15 min Here's a more contemporary take on using walls to convey a message! Walls can also be the canvas for wonderful works of art that connect people in cities and towns. Ask the learners: -Have you seen street art before? If yes, where? (Walls, gates, roads, etc.) You can remind learners of places in your city or community where there are examples of this (if there are). Also, if possible (and if students have not seen street art before), you can have them look at these images:





What stands out for you about street art?

What do you find exciting about street art?

What are they showing us?

(Engage in a conversation with learners around these questions. The goal of the conversation is get them excited about doing their own street art).

How is street art different from cave paintings? How are they similar?

Similarities	Differences
•	•
•	•
•	•

Literacy extension: Write three sentences explaining the main similarities/differences between street art and cave paintings. Use connectors



	15 minutes	or transition words such as "unlike", "on the contrary", "similarly", "in a similar fashion", "however", etc.
		Have you ever painted on a wall? What were you trying to do? What happened when you did? Most likely, you've gotten in trouble for scribbling on walls, since it can ruin the painting. Street artists also get in trouble sometimes.
		In this project we are going to pretend that we are street artists and we are going to paint a mural on the street's walls!
		Painting on walls is difficult and can get us in trouble if we don't have permission to do it. Why do you think this is the case? Why is it wrong to paint on public property without permission?
		In this project, we are also going to create your own depiction of your neighborhood and try to understand what are some messages or ideas that walls can tell the people in the neighborhood.
		At the end of the project, we'll have a representation of your neighborhood and a beautiful street art piece to go with it.
2		Before doing our street art, we need to understand our neighborhood better, and need to think about what story or characters we want our street art to represent.
	30 min	Invite learners to take some time to walk around their neighborhood or local area. In a classroom setting, learners can go around the school's neighborhood together. They can also go around with their parents or siblings if they are at home. Here are some questions that might guide the learners' exploration:
		 What are some places or landmarks that are meaningful to you? Do you have memories that take place in any of these places? What are some places or spaces for gatherings? Is there a place that is representative of what people do for fun in your community? Is there a historical site or an upcoming venue that is interesting to you?
	30 min	After going around, learners will sketch a map of their neighborhood or local area.
		Invite learners to do this map as they see it through their eyes. This map does not have to be "accurate" or similar to other maps that exist. However, if they are interested, they could try to draw the map to scale, or use symbols to represent houses, parks, etc.



(**Tip**: Consider what types of features do you anticipate students will be most excited about including on their maps? How can you build on this excitement? For example, learners can be excited about routes that they take, or places where family members live, or trees, places where they have seen animals, places where they have been, etc.).

Here are some examples of maps that you could share with students. You can also analyze any map that you have at home or at school. Spend some time analyzing and identifying some key elements:



15 min

Learners will show their map to someone else in their family and/or community (a friend, a family member, someone from an older generation, a neighbor, a teacher, etc.).

Learners will **explore connections** between that person's experience of the neighborhood, and their map/neighborhood. Ask the person to talk to you about a place or places in the neighborhood that are important to them.



		If any of these places appear on your map, be sure to mark them. They will annotate the map together to include, for example, places that they love (could add a heart), additional places that need to be featured, additional routes, differences between routes, etc. You can use markers, pens, 3D materials like cardboard (and glue/tape), stickers, labels—anything you like to demonstrate the connections the person is seeing. Also, make sure that together they think about interesting walls and annotate their place on the map.			
3	20 min for walking around (depends on the neighbor hood	carefully 2.	Mark 3 walls on the map Have learners fill this table as they go around		
				Interesting features (What are they made of? -brick, clay, etc, - size, functions, how old they are, etc.)	What would this wall tell me if it could speak? (i.e. What are some scenes that happen in front of it or behind it that could depict in a cave style? What is a message that would be relevant to have in that place?
			Wall #1		
			Wall #2		
			Wall #3		



10 min	Ask learners to choose one wall that they thought was particularly interestin and mark it on their original map.				
	Ask the learner to answer this question:				
	What I found inte	resting about this wall was that			
	If this wall could s	peak, it would tell me that			
20 min to find the people	, 9				
5 - 10 min interview	Some possible interview prompts to guide the interviewed people (learners can choose to focus on one or two):				
ing	 A memory or something that happened to them around that wall A story about that wall that they have heard from someone else How has that wall changed over time What that wall represents to them 				
		that would be important for people who this wall			
	Learners will write down their notes on the following table:				
		What I learned from them about the wall that I found interesting			
	Person 1				

Person 2

Person 3



To reflect on the interviews, learners will identify differences between how they think about the wall, and how other people in the community think about it. What I think What others think 4 1 hour Ask learners to draw on a piece of paper the wall that they have been thinking about throughout the project. The drawing needs to be big enough so that they can make their street start on top of it. (Alternatively, and if there is a camera available, learners can go around the neighborhood and take pictures over which they can paint). Learners will draw on top of the drawing of the house and make their own street art based on their reflections about that wall and their conversations with people in the neighborhood! Here are some tips for thinking about the street art: Invent a character that represents someone in your community Give your personal touch to the body and face (no need to respect the proportions) Adapt the position of the body to the space to be decorated Think of an object or an activity (the character has to do something with some object) Tell a story (the character can think / feel / communicate emotions, a message or an intention) Draw a background, realistic or abstract Draw and color in pencil on tracing paper. You can also redraw the contours with a thin black marker. Put your own TAG (your signature with an alias)

Here are some examples of what the drawings can look like:







After they finish, learners will present their street art to their family members and community.

Some questions that can guide their presentation are:

- What did you find interesting about the wall?
- What did it remind you of?
- Why did you choose the drawings that you chose?
- What is the message that you are trying to convey with your drawing?

If learners are doing this in a classroom setting, there can be a final exhibit of student mini-street art.



	After learners have finished, let them reflect again about their creative process:			
	A particular challenge for me was			
	An awesome success for me was			
	Compared to Day 2, the challenges and successes were			
Assessment Criteria:	 Creativity/Critical Thinking: Learners will create their own cave painting with daily scenes and local materials Learners identify challenges and successes in their creative processes Learners will be able to create their own map of their neighborhood and annotate it Learners will demonstrate their understanding of the idea of "walls that speak" by providing examples of things that walls in their neighborhood could say Learners will creatively express what they think a wall could say if it could speak about their community Communication Learners will conduct interviews and contrast other people's perspectives about their ideas. 			

Inspiration:	https://arteascuola.com/2016/03/street-art-puppets/	
	https://outofeden.s3.amazonaws.com/Creating+and+Sharing+Neighborhood+Maps.p	
	df	



Ages 11 to 14 (Level 3)

Description:	In this project, learners imagine that they are street artists and will draw a scene/character/event/message that is meaningful for their community.		
Leading question:	What can we tell others through walls?		
Age group:	11-14		
Subjects:	Art, Geography, History		
Concepts and skills covered:	 Understand how walls can convey meaning Represent their neighborhood through a map Design a street mural on one city's wall that represents a hero, a daily event, or a message of hope for the community. Cave art Street Art Local history Urban geography Walls 		
Required previous learning	None		
Total time required:	3.5 hours across 4 days		
Self-guided / Supervised activity:	Medium supervision		
Resources required:	Postal or craft paper, chalk, red and black paint, colors, waxed paper		

Day	Time	Activity and Description		
1	5 min	Ask the learners: What are walls for? (Learners can say that walls are for separating spaces, maintaining privacy, protecting from the outside, protecting the city from the outside, marking the beginning of private property, etc.)		
	10 min	Walls can also be used as murals and to communicate messages.		
		For example, there is rupestrian art.		
		Ex. 1. Cave Paintings (rupestrian art)		
		If possible, show this image - or any image- of rupestrian art to learners.		





Otherwise help them imagine what these looked like.

These were painted in caves many many years ago (thousands of years ago).

- Can you see/imagine the kinds of things that were painted? (Animals, hunting scenes, hands, some patterns, etc.).
- Can you see/imagine the kinds of colors that they used? (Earth colors, such as red, black, brown) Why do you think they used these specific colors?
- What tools do you think they used to draw? (Their hands, bones, sticks, etc.)

(Spend some time listening to the learner's answers and engage in a conversation).

These walls tell us many things! What are some of these things that our ancestors are telling us through these walls in the caves?

(For instance, they tell us about what people did at that time, the materials that they had available to them, the tools that they used for hunting, how tall they were, what they thought important to keep track of, etc.)

30 min

Activity: Your own Cave Painting. What kind of scenes would you draw if you wanted to keep track of what people in your community do every day?

(Spend some time listening to the learner's answers and engage in a conversation. Lead those to a storyboard of their daily lives that they would like to portray in their own cave painting).



Invite learners to draw a mural with scenes from their lives at home in "rupestrian style."

Tape some postal/ kraft paper/regular paper/ cardboard on the wall with painters' tape (You can use old boxes for creating this canvas).

Learners can use red and black paint and white chalk if available, but they can also use soil and try to "discover" natural pigments.

5 min

After learners have finished, let them reflect about their creative process:

The reason I chose to show these particular activities and not other activities that my community does is because....

A particular challenge for me was...

An awesome success for me was...

15 minutes

• Ex. 2. Graffiti and street art

Here's a more contemporary take on using walls to convey a message! Walls can also be the canvas for wonderful works of art that connect people in cities and towns.

Ask the learners:

-Have you seen street art before? If yes, where? (Walls, gates, roads, etc.)

You can remind learners of places in your city or community where there are examples of this if there are. Also, if possible (and if students have not seen street art before), you can have them look at these images:





- What stands out for you about street art?
- What do you find exciting about street art?
- What are street artists showing us?
- What can be controversial about street art?

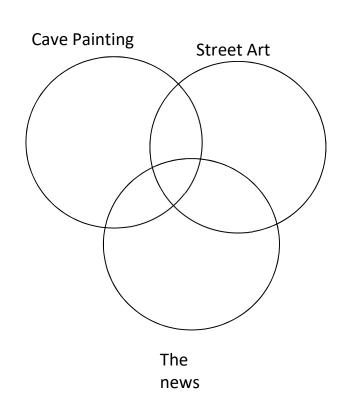
(Engage in a conversation with learners around these questions. The goal of the conversation is getting them excited about doing their own street art).

- How is street art different from cave paintings? How are they similar?

One way in which street art and cave paintings are similar is that they communicate to people in the neighborhood what the day to day experiences of the community are like. This is, in a way, similar to what the news does. Do you agree with this? Why or why not? What are ways in which cave paintings, street art, and local news are similar? What are ways in which they are different?

Ask learners to organize their thoughts on a Venn Diagram like this one:





15 minutes

Literacy extension: Write two paragraphs explaining the main similarities/differences between street art and cave paintings. Use connectors or transition words such as "unlike", "on the contrary", "similarly", "in a similar fashion...", "however", etc.

Have you ever painted on a wall? What were you trying to do? What happened when you did? Most likely, you've gotten in trouble for scribbling on walls, since it can ruin the painting. Street artists also get in trouble sometimes.

In this project we are going to pretend that we are street artists and we are going to paint a mural on the street's walls!

Painting on walls is difficult and can get us in trouble if we don't have permission to do it. Why do you think this is the case? Why is it wrong to paint on public property without permission?

In this project, we are going to create your own depiction of your neighborhood and try to understand some of the messages or ideas that walls can tell people around the neighborhood.

At the end of the project, we'll have a representation of your neighborhood and a beautiful street art piece to go with it.



2		Before doing our street art, we need to understand our neighborhood better, and think about what story or characters we want our street art to represent.
	30 min	Invite learners to take some time to walk around their neighborhood or local area. In a classroom setting, learners can go around the school's neighborhood together. They can also go around with their parents or siblings if they are at home. Here are some questions that might guide the learners' exploration:
		 What are some places or landmarks that are meaningful to you? Do you have memories that take place in any of these places? What are some places or spaces for gatherings? Is there a place that is representative of what people do for fun in your community?
		 Is there a historical site or an upcoming venue that is interesting to you?
	30 min	After going around, learners will sketch a map of their neighborhood or local area.
		Invite learners to do this map <u>as a representation of their view of the</u> <u>neighborhood (through their eyes)</u> . This map does not have to be "accurate" or similar to other maps that exist. However, if they are interested, and as a numeracy extension, they could try to draw the map to scale, or use symbols to represent houses, parks, etc.
		(Tip : Consider what types of features do you anticipate students will be most excited about including on their maps? How can you build on this excitement? For example, learners can be excited about routes that they take, or places where family members live, or trees, places where they have seen animals, places where they have been, etc.).
		Here are some examples of maps that you could share with students. If possible, encourage learners to analyze and compare any maps that they have at home or at school.
		Spend some time analyzing and identifying some key elements such as the conventions, the idea of geographical features (hills, plateaus, water bodies, etc.), man-made/artificial features vs. natural features, how neighborhoods change through time and what are the driving forces of change, etc.:



	15 min	someon someon Learner neighbor about a lf any of annotat (could a routes, materia demons	s will show the else in the efrom an orange or place or place the map and differences is like cardistrate the contract the contract of the con	their map and tell the story their family and/or community (a older generation, a neighbor, a re connections between that put their map/neighborhood. Ask aces in the neighborhood that es appear on your map, be sur together to include, for examp, additional places that need to between routes, etc. You can board (and glue/tape), stickers, connections the person is seeing at together they think about in map.	e friend, a family member, teacher, etc.). Derson's experience of the the person to talk to you are important to them. They will le, places that they love to be featured, additional use markers, pens, 3D, labels—anything you like to g.
3	20 min for walking around	Ask learners to go back around the neighborhood or local area, looking carefully at the walls, keeping in mind the conversation that they had on Day 2.			
	(depends on the neighbor	 Mark 5 walls on the map Have learners fill this table as they go around 			
	hood)			Interesting features (What are they made of? -brick,	What would this wall tell me if it could speak?



			clay, etc, - size, functions, how old they are, how many bricks do they have? What's their area, etc?)	(I.e. What are some scenes that happen in front of it or behind it that could depict in a cave style? What is a message that would be relevant to have in that place?
10 min for each wall		Wall #1		
		Wall #2		
		Wall #3		
		Wall #4		
		Wall #5		
		Are there ir	mportant differences between	the walls?
10 min	Ask learners to choose one wall that they thought was particularly interesting and mark it on their original map.			



	What I found interesting about this wall was that					
	If this wall could speak, it would tell me that					
20 min to find the people	After this, ask them to go back and interview three different people in the neighborhood, or at home to see what they think about what that wall wou tell them if it could speak.					
5 - 10 min interview	Some possible interview prompts to guide the interviewed people (learners can choose to focus on one or two):					
ing	 A memory or something that happened to them around that wall A story about that wall that they have heard from someone else How has that wall changed over time What that wall represents to them A message that would be important for people who this wall 					
	Learners will write down their notes on the following table:					
		What I learned from them about the wall that I found interesting				
	Person 1					
	Person 2					



		What I think	What others think			
		after your conversations?	sights that you have about your community is? sights that you have about the purposes of			
4	1 hour	Ask learners to draw on a piece of paper the wall that they have been thinking about throughout the project. Ask them to write down in a piece of paper the message that they want to share.				
		If this wall could speak, it would	ld tell us that			
		The drawing needs to be big enough so that they can make their street start on top of it. (Alternatively, and if there is a camera available, learners can go around the neighborhood and take pictures over which they can paint).				
		1	r on top of the drawing of the house and make neir reflections about that wall and their e neighborhood!			
		Here are some tips for thinking a	about the street art:			
		 Invent a character that reconnecting your community 	represents someone who has done a lot for unity			



- Give your personal touch to the body and face (no need to respect the proportions)
- Adapt the position of the body to the space to be decorated
- Think of an object or an activity (the character has to do something with some object)
- Tell a story (the character can think / feel / communicate emotions, a message or an intention)
- Draw a background, realistic or abstract
- Draw and color in pencil on tracing paper. You can also redraw the contours with a thin black marker
- Put your own TAG (your signature with an alias)

Here are some examples of what the drawings can look like:









	After they finish, learners will present their street art to their family members and community. If learners are doing this in a classroom setting, there can be a final exhibit of student mini-street art. After learners have finished, let them reflect again about their creative process:				
	A particular challenge for me was An awesome success for me was				
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Inspiration:	https://arteascuola.com/2016/03/street-art-puppets/ https://outofeden.s3.amazonaws.com/Creating+and+Sharing+Neighborhood+Maps.p df				