



Creating Collage

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Aim: To explain what collage is and use it to produce creative beautiful art.

Success Criteria:

- Define collage.
- Understand the different methods and materials used for collage.
- Create and construct a collage.

What is collage?

A collage is a picture or design that is created by adhering elements to a flat surface. The word “collage” comes from the French *coller* meaning “to glue”. Collage is a form of artwork that is made by assembling or organising different materials to create a new piece of art.



Materials - what can you use for collage?

The short answer is anything that can be glued! Look around your home to look at all the options of different materials you could use to create a collage. Some ideas as a starting point are:

- Pictures cut from old magazines, newspapers or junk mail
- Recycled materials from your home (plastic lids, packaging materials, straws)
- Cardboard and coloured paper (tissue, crepe, wrapping or construction paper)
- Natural objects: leaves, feathers, sand, flowers, bark
- Scraps of fabric or ribbon or wool.
- Buttons, ice cream sticks, googly eyes, string, pom poms, sequins
- Photographs
- Wrapping paper
- Stickers, tinsel or foil
- Dried pasta, lentils, rice or seeds



Method - how do I collage?

Decide on a focus:

Are you trying to create a picture? Like a landscape like the beach, a person for instance a self portrait.

Would you like your collage to create an object? Such as a rainbow or an icecream.

Are you trying to convey more of an abstract idea through collage? For example: a collection of your favourite things, an emotion like happiness or peace.



Consider your materials:

Shape: Think about the shapes you're going to use.

If it's a mountain scene think about using more organic shapes and lines OR if it's a cityscape consider cutting more precise geometric shapes.

Color: Organise your materials by colour.

What colours do you need for your picture?

Do you have enough variation between light and dark shades to create contrast?

Texture: Think about cutting or tearing and ripping your materials to make different effects and textures.

Do you want it to look flat? Would it look more interesting to have a more three - dimensional look to create texture in areas?



Get started – Construct a collage:

Prepare the collage materials: Collect a variety of materials and cut or tear into small pieces. You can do this as you go to make them fit your design.

Glue: Use a good quality acid free gluestick where possible so it doesn't alter the colour of your collage materials. Some collage materials will need a heavier duty glue such as craft or pva glue to stick the materials effectively.

Scissors: Ensure your scissors are sharp enough to work on a range of different materials. Ask an adult to cut through trickier items if you need to.

Organise the materials: Work at a table and keep the collage items in plastic tubs or on a tray. This can help you keep any mess under control.

Add extra items: Use markers, pens or paint to add extra interest to your artwork. Fill in empty spaces, with colour or special sayings, words or drawings.



Collage is a multimedia artform that can convey an abstract idea or a picture of a person, place or object by using a range of materials and gluing them onto paper or cardboard.

Collage can be such an effective technique to use what you have to create something new. Use what you have learnt in this lesson to use collage effectively in your very own creations. Don't forget to look at our inspiration pages for lots of ideas to make your own!

Inspiration Page

