By Virginia Berthelot  
Denham Springs High School  
Denham Springs, LA

Introduction

Discuss what Mardi Gras is, why it is celebrated, and how it is celebrated in New Orleans. Make connections with other festivals around the world that are similar (i.e. Brazil’s Carnival). Show students some of Stephan Wanger’s artworks from www.galeriaalegria.com. Explain how they are made of recycled Mardi Gras beads, then discuss the importance of recycling.

Objectives

Students will…

❂ Study the artist Stephan Wanger
❂ Learn about the history of New Orleans Mardi Gras
❂ Understand the importance of recycling
❂ Create a mosaic made of recycled beads

Modifications

❂ For elementary students, use Elmer’s School Glue instead of High-Strength Adhesive
❂ Use loose beads, sequins, buttons, or seeds instead of Mardi Gras beads
❂ Use mat board, scrap wood, or picture frames in place of foam core
❂ Cut out shapes of foam core and layer to create 3-D images
❂ Have students make their own beads out of air-dry clay
❂ Have students create a large group bead mosaic of your school mascot

Materials List

❂ Bead Necklaces, pkg. of 144 (Cat. No. 9736311)
❂ White Foam Core (Cat. No. 9731152) and Nabo Sketching Pencils (Cat. No. 9718486) or Black Foam Core (Cat. No. 9731151) and General’s Charcoal White® Pencils (Cat. No. 9703438)
❂ High-Strength 9001 Adhesive, 2-oz. tube (Cat. No. 9729487)
❂ Nabo Bulk-Krylic® Acrylic Paint, set of 6 pints (Cat. No. 9715338)
❂ Mardi Gras beads
❂ Cups/bags for separating
❂ Scissors
❂ Erasers
❂ Toothpicks

Resources

www.galeriaalegria.com/  
www.recyclescene.com/how-to-recycle/recycle-mardi-gras-beads  
www.mardigrasneworleans.com  
www.colormegood.com/holidays/mardigras.html

View additional Nasco ArtWorks Lesson Plans on our website at eNasco.com/artsandcrafts!
Directions

1. Collect beads, cut them off of the strands, then separate them by color into bags or containers.
2. Cut pieces of foam core to desired sizes.

Tips

- Use a variety of shapes and sizes to create texture
- Hot glue and regular glues won’t create as strong of a bond for holding the beads to the frames, especially for large mosaics, but they are more suited for elementary levels
- White adhesive can be used to help create a grout look
- Smaller beads work best

Preparation

- Have students sketch or print an image that represents Mardi Gras on foam core.
- Have students paint their image. Color choices are optional but should either match or contrast with the bead color. Let the paint dry.
- Once you have the main part of your image beaded, start filling in the gaps and the background. Let dry.

Begin covering the main part of your image with the glue, section by section. Choose beads to match or contrast your paint colors and begin to stick them onto the pre-glued area.

Tip: This strong clear adhesive will not dry as fast as other glues, allowing the beads to be manipulated as you work. It may help to use toothpicks for minor adjustments.
Directions
1. Collect beads, cut them off of the strands, then separate them by color into bags or containers.
2. Cut pieces of foam core to desired sizes.

Tips
- Use a variety of shapes and sizes to create texture
- Hot glue and regular glues won’t create as strong of a bond for holding the beads to the frames, especially for large mosaics, but they are more suited for elementary levels
- White adhesive can be used to help create a grout look
- Smaller beads work best

Preparation
- Have students sketch or print an image that represents Mardi Gras on foam core.
- Have students paint their image. Color choices are optional but should either match or contrast with the bead color. Let the paint dry.

Tip: This strong clear adhesive will not dry as fast as other glues, allowing the beads to be manipulated as you work. It may help to use toothpicks for minor adjustments.
Introduction

Discuss what Mardi Gras is, why it is celebrated, and how it is celebrated in New Orleans. Make connections with other festivals around the world that are similar (i.e., Brazil’s Carnival). Show students some of Stephan Wanger’s artworks from www.galeriaalegria.com. Explain how they are made of recycled Mardi Gras beads, then discuss the importance of recycling.

Students will...

- Study the artist Stephan Wanger
- Learn about the history of New Orleans Mardi Gras
- Understand the importance of recycling
- Create a mosaic made of recycled beads

Materials

- Bead Necklaces, pkg. of 144 (Cat. No. 9736311)
- White Foam Core (Cat. No. 9731152) and Nasco Sketching Pencils (Cat. No. 9778386) or Black Foam Core (Cat. No. 9731151) and General’s Chalkboard White® Pencils (Cat. No. 9703428)
- High-Strength 9001 Adhesive, 2-oz. tube (Cat. No. 9720187)
- Nasco Bulk-Krylic® Acrylic Paint, set of 6 pints (Cat. No. 9715138)
- Mardi Gras beads
- Cups/bags for separating
- Scissors
- Erasers
- Toothpicks
- For elementary students, use Elmer’s School Glue instead of High-Strength Adhesive
- Use loose beads, sequins, buttons, or seeds instead of Mardi Gras beads
- Use mat board, scrap wood, or picture frames in place of foam core
- Cut out shapes of foam core and layer to create 3D images
- Have students make their own beads out of air-dry clay
- Have students create a large group bead mosaic of your school mascot

Time Required: 4-10 class periods, approximately 50 minutes each.

Grades 1-12

ArtWorks Lesson Plans are developed by teachers with no claim of original authorship.

NP074-14  Printed in USA  June 2014

ArtWorks Lesson Plans are developed by teachers with no claim of original authorship.