

**PIECING TOGETHER OUR WORLD**  
**Grade Band: 9-12**  
**Content Focus: Social Studies & Visual Arts**



## LEARNING DESCRIPTION

In this lesson, students explore the power of creative expression to raise awareness about global geographic patterns and issues by creating a mixed media collage that communicates a geographic message. After analyzing examples of awareness campaigns and artworks that use collage to address global topics such as cultural diffusion, migration, or globalization, students select a geography theme, research its causes and effects, and plan a visually compelling message designed to educate and inspire their audience. Through collaborative or individual work, students create a collage incorporating creativity, clear communication, and accurate geographic content. They then explain how their artwork addresses the topic and reflect on how art and media can influence public awareness and understanding of geography and human migration.

## LEARNING TARGETS

Essential Questions	"I Can" Statements
<p>How can art and creativity inspire others to understand and reflect on global geographic patterns and issues?</p>	<p>I can explain a geographic concept and its impact on people and places.</p> <p>I can design a creative message that raises awareness about a geographic issue or theme.</p>

	<p>I can use mixed media and collage to communicate a geographic message effectively.</p> <p>I can reflect on how creative media can inspire understanding and action.</p> <p>I can create a message that inspires others to think about the impacts of migration on people and places.</p>
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## GEORGIA STANDARDS

Curriculum Standards	Arts Standards
<p><b>World Geography:</b> SSWG5 — Analyze human interactions with the world's environments.</p>	<p>VAHSVA.CR.1 Visualize and generate ideas for creating works of art.</p> <p>VAHSVA.CR.2 Choose from a range of materials and methods of traditional and contemporary artistic practices to plan and create works of art.</p> <p>VAHSVA.PR.1 Plan, prepare, and present works of art for exhibition in school, virtual environment, and/or portfolio presentation.</p> <p>VAHSVA.PR.1.a Exhibit works of art with a written supporting artist statement that communicates purpose and/or intent.</p>

## SOUTH CAROLINA STANDARDS

Curriculum Standards	Arts Standards
<p><b>Human Geography:</b> HG.1.5.HS — Evaluate the cultural, economic, environmental, and political impacts of human migration on human settlements in various regions.</p>	<p><b>Anchor Standard 1:</b> I can use the elements and principles of art to create artwork.</p> <p><b>Anchor Standard 2:</b> I can use different materials, techniques, and processes to make art.</p> <p><b>Anchor Standard 5:</b> I can interpret and evaluate the meaning of an artwork.</p> <p><b>Anchor Standard 7:</b> I can relate visual arts ideas to other arts disciplines, content areas, and careers.</p>

## KEY VOCABULARY

Content Vocabulary	Arts Vocabulary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <u>Cultural diffusion</u> — The spread of cultural beliefs and activities from one group to another</li><li>● <u>Globalization</u> — The increasing interconnectedness of countries through trade, ideas, and culture</li><li>● <u>Migration</u> — Movement of people from one place to another</li><li>● <u>Urbanization</u> — Growth of cities as people move from rural to urban areas</li><li>● <u>Population density</u> — The number of people living in a certain area</li><li>● <u>Human-environment interaction</u> — How humans adapt to and modify their environment</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <u>Media</u> — The tools and materials an artist uses to create an artwork (e.g., paper, fabric, paint, photos)</li><li>● <u>Collage</u> — A composition created by gluing colored paper, photographs, magazine pictures, fabric, and other two-dimensional materials onto a flat surface</li><li>● <u>Mixed media</u> — Combining different materials and techniques in a single artwork.</li><li>● <u>Balance</u> — A sense of stability in the artwork; created by repeating shapes or distributing visual weight evenly</li><li>● <u>Contrast</u> — The arrangement of opposite elements (light vs. dark, rough vs. smooth, etc.) to create interest; also known as variety</li><li>● <u>Emphasis</u> — Creating points of interest or a focal point that draws the viewer's eye to important parts of the work</li><li>● <u>Movement</u> — The arrangement of elements that guides the viewer's eye through the artwork, creating a sense of motion</li><li>● <u>Pattern</u> — Repetition of specific visual elements, such as a shape or form, throughout the artwork</li><li>● <u>Proportion</u> — The size relationships between different parts of the artwork; how elements relate to each other in terms of size, scale, and placement</li><li>● <u>Rhythm</u> — A sense of motion created by repeating shapes, lines, or colors in an organized way</li><li>● <u>Unity</u> — When all the parts of a design work together to create a harmonious, complete whole. Similar to harmony or color harmony</li></ul>

## MATERIALS

- Projector and speakers for showing examples
- Magazines, newspapers, photos, colored paper, fabric scraps, tissue paper, etc.
- Scissors
- Glue
- Poster board
- Markers
- Pens
- Paint (optional)
- Internet access for research
- [Arts Vocabulary](#)
- [List of topics for each student](#)
- [Student Planning Handout for each student](#)
- [Rubric](#)
- Space to display final collages (walls, boards, or digitally)
- Websites:
  - Collage Examples: <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/c/collage>
  - Art As Activism: <https://artsproutsart.com/creating-art-for-social-change-how-art-can-inspire-activism/>
  - Mixed Media Techniques: <https://www.montmarte.com/blogs/tips-techniques/10-mixed-media-techniques>
  - Mixed Media Art Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wY7tCPadog>
  - 6 Simple Mixed Media Techniques: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=STyv7ejlYaw>
  - National Geographic Topics: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/society/>
  - Our World in Data: <https://ourworldindata.org/>

## INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN

### Opening/Activating Strategy

- Introduce the driving question and lesson objectives.
- Present collage and mixed media concepts; review vocabulary.
- Show examples of collages that communicate powerful messages. Ask students:
  - What message does each convey?
  - How do the materials, composition, and design support the message?
  - Discuss the Principles of Design and how they are used in artwork.

### Work Session

- Students choose a geography topic from a provided list (e.g., migration, cultural diffusion, globalization, urbanization, etc.).
- Students conduct brief research on the topic.
- Students then complete the Student Handout Planning Sheet.
- Students identify the message they want to convey.
- Plan imagery, materials, and design approach (show students Mixed Media Techniques tutorials to help them visualize/plan their collage). \*Teacher can suggest to students they may have items at home they'd like to use in their collages.

- Using the Mixed Media Techniques tutorials as a guide, students begin creating their collages using the provided materials and/or materials they bring from home. Before starting, they should identify which techniques they plan to employ.
- The teacher should help guide students and have them consider each piece of their collage and what purpose it brings to the overall message (ex. as opposed to just including elements simply because they are pretty).
- Once they are finished with their collages, the students should each write a brief artist's statement explaining the techniques they used and how their collage communicates their overall message. The statement should connect the purpose of different elements used to the message.

### Closing/Reflection

- Class gallery walk: Students display and view each other's work.
- Peer feedback: Write one strength and one suggestion for at least two classmates.
- Exit ticket: Reflect — *What did you learn about your topic, and how did art help you express it?*

## ASSESSMENTS

### Formative

- Observations and questioning
- Student Handout Planning sheet
- Discussions

### Summative

- Finished collage
- Artist's statement
- Participation in gallery walk
- Rubric

## DIFFERENTIATION

**Acceleration:** Research additional mixed media art techniques such as montage or papier colle and share new techniques with others.

**Remediation:** Provide templates, pre-selected materials, and sentence starters for artist's statement.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

*\*This integrated lesson provides differentiated ideas and activities for educators that are aligned to a sampling of standards. Standards referenced at the time of publishing may differ based on each state's adoption of new standards.*

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