

## PUBLIC ART & COMMUNITY MURALS - PLACE-BASED ACTIVITIES

What is “**public art**”?

It is art in any form that has been planned and created for the public to see, usually outside. **Public art** can include murals, sculpture, memorials, buildings or landscaping, and even performances and festivals! **Public art** is often site-specific, meaning it is created in response to the place and community in which it resides.



### RESEARCH AN EXAMPLE OF PUBLIC ART IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

What is the theme or purpose? Why is this important? What is the setting of what is being represented - when and where? What or who is being represented? What can be learned from the details in the art?

Create an essay, poster, or slide presentation about this work of public art, answering the above questions.

### PLAN A MURAL FOR YOUR COMMUNITY:

Think of an **important historical event in your area**, and plan a public mural to **commemorate** it (recall and show respect for it).

- First, **WHY** is this event important in the history of your area? Explain.
- Find out **WHERE** it happened - the setting: What did this place look like? Was it a natural area? Was it in town with buildings? What were the buildings, and what did they look like? Are they still there?
- **WHO** was there and why? Find out how people dressed at that time. Also, how would the person’s background affect his/her clothing?
- **WHAT** important objects should go in your mural? What do they symbolize or represent?

Prepare a detailed sketch of the mural - if possible, create a color illustration planning it.

### MURAL PAINTING - HOW DO THEY DO IT?

How do artists actually create large scale, outdoor murals? **Research** these methods:

- How do artists transfer smaller planned images onto large-scale surfaces?
- What equipment is needed to paint a large-scale mural?
- How is the surface prepared?
- What types of paints and/or preservatives are used?
- How long does it take to paint a large mural?
- How long will the murals last?