

Peace Windows

In the style of Marc Chagall's stained glass

Late in his career, artist Marc Chagall produced a number of paintings in glass, including the Peace Window in the United Nations World Headquarters. Created as a living memorial to all who had lost their lives in the cause of peace, Chagall's colorful, dream-like images symbolize peace, love, tolerance and faith.

In reality, Marc Chagall's life was filled with tragic events and the world he lived in was anything but peaceful. In light of this fact, students can begin to understand an artist's ability to share healing, inspiration and encouragement.

Using "peace" as a theme, students create transparent paintings with floating imagery and Chagall-like colors. A simple version for very young children is listed at the end.

Grade Levels K-8

Note: instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 25 students. Adjust as needed.

Preparation

1. View images of Marc Chagall's paintings and glass.
Recommended resource:

[Artists of the 20th Century: Marc Chagall DVD](#) (70096-1010)

2. Cut tissue into 6" x 6" squares.
3. Use the following prompts for discussion and to generate ideas:

- What are some of the symbols we use to show "peace"? (*peace icon, dove, "V" with fingers, etc.*)
- What are some things you can think of that we say are "peaceful"? (*a sleeping baby, a garden, a clear starry sky, a fish pond, a waterfall, etc.*)
- What are some things that you do that make you feel "at peace"? (*reading, hugging, sleeping, drawing, etc.*)

Process

1. Drawing on their responses to these questions, students draw five or six images using crayons



Materials

Blick® Colored Art Tissue, 100 sheets, 20-color assortment, (11308-1007); share one package across class

Blick® Pure White Tissue, package of 24 sheets (11308-1493); share one package across class

3M® Thermal Laminating Pouches, 8-1/2" x 11", package of 20 (23239-1001); need one per student

Crayola® Crayons, 16 colors (20103-1008); share one box between two students

Blick® White Glue, 4-oz (23882-1004); one per

student

Blick® Economy Camel Round Brushes (06220-1120); need one brush per student

Blick® Liquid Watercolor, 8-oz assorted colors, (00369-); share 3-4 bottles across class

Sharpie® Chisel Tip Marker, Black (21383-2020); share one between two students

Acme™ Junior Scissors, blunt (57058-1015); need one pair per student

Iron or **3M® Thermal Laminator** (23239-0000)

Process, continued

on colored tissue. Cut around the images, turn them over and repeat the drawing so it is visible on both sides.

2. Open the laminating pouch and roll the top under so it stays open. Mix glue with a little water so it can be easily brushed onto the tissue paper shapes. Brush one side, stick it down on the laminating pouch, then repeat on the other side, applying glue so that it extends over the edges of the shape. Allow to dry.
3. Tear white tissue paper into smaller pieces. Brush a small amount of clear water over the tissue paper and place it on the open laminating pouch. Allow it to wrinkle naturally, brushing water over the top so it stays in place. Apply tissue right up to, but not overlapping, the shapes. Fill the surface, leaving 1/4" on all sides as a border.
4. Apply liquid watercolor sparingly onto the wet tissue. It will bleed and flow randomly. Apply glitter watercolor around the shapes — it will not flow as readily and acts as a barrier. Fill the page and allow it to dry.
5. Using a laminating machine or a regular household iron on a nylon or polyester setting, seal the pouch.
6. On both sides of the window, use a permanent black chisel-tip marker to draw a frame and outline the shapes. Look for lines forming in the tissue paper inside and trace them to form "lead" lines.

Simple "Stained Glass" Windows

1. Younger ages skip drawing the shapes and painting. Simply place torn tissue paper onto the laminating pouch. As in step 3 above, use water to hold the tissue in place and leave a border around it for sealing.
2. Seal the pouch and trace edges of the torn paper with marker to simulate lead lines.

Options

- Windows may be cut into shapes after heat-sealing.
- Laminating pouches may be cut in half.
- Laminating film may also be used.
[3.0 mm EVA Laminating Film](#), 25" x 250-ft roll (23240-1250)

National Standards for Visual Arts Education

Content Standard #3 Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas

K-4 Students select and use subject matter, symbols and ideas to communicate meaning.

5-8 Students use subjects, themes and symbols that demonstrate knowledge of contexts, values and aesthetics that communicate intended meaning in artworks.

Content Standard #5 Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others.

K-4 Students understand there are various purposes for creating works of visual art.

5-8 Students analyze contemporary and historic meanings in specific artworks through cultural and aesthetic inquiry.

