

Bighorn Collaborative Mural: Using Art to Make a Wild Sheep

Objectives:

Students will be able to enlarge a portion of an image using observation and proportion. They will also demonstrate understanding of **scale and grid drawing techniques** while using **line, shape, texture, and value** to replicate a collaborative image of a bighorn sheep.

Grade level: 3rd to high school

Duration: 1-3 class sessions

National Core Art Standards:

- **VA:Cr1.1** – Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work
- **VA:Cr2.1** – Organize and develop artistic ideas and work
- **VA:Cr3.1** – Refine and complete artistic work
- **VA:Re7.2** – Analyze how visual elements contribute to meaning
- **VA:Cn10.1** – Create works of art that reflect community and environment



Materials:

- Attached copy of the bighorn sheep grid.
- Cut out squares for students to draw their artwork on. These can be 2x2", 3x3", or even larger, depending on the size you want the finished project to be.

Procedures:

1. Show the full bighorn sheep image.
2. Discuss:
 - What do you notice?
 - Where are the darkest/lightest areas?
3. Explain grid method:
 - Model how one small square transfers to a larger square
4. Assign each student one square section. This piece is broken into 70 squares. So, each student could duplicate 2-3 individual squares. Make sure to number the backs so that you know what order to put them in when they turn them in. Option: Another option includes cutting out 2 squares that are connected, in a rectangle. Each student would be given a rectangle and need to start by drawing a line going down the middle.

Sketching

1. Focus on:
 - Matching shapes, not "guessing the animal"
 - Observing lines carefully
2. Teacher circulates:
 - Encourage accuracy over speed

Refining & Adding Detail

1. Students add:
 - Texture (fur, horn ridges)
 - Shading (value)
2. Emphasize blending edges so pieces will match neighbors

Day 4: Assembly & Reflection

1. Assemble mural together as a class
2. Step back and observe:
 - Does it look like one image?
 - Where do pieces connect well?
3. Reflection discussion or writing:
 - What was challenging?
 - How did your piece contribute?

Other Options:

This can also be used where you hand each student the printed out grid with the bighorn on it. Then, duplicate the 1"x1" grid on a solid white paper. Have the students look into each square and draw what they see in the appropriate square on the blank paper. The goal here is analyze the shapes inside each square and not the entire picture as representing a bighorn sheep. When the student is done, a complete drawing of a bighorn is produced by each student. Coloring the image could be an optional project.

