



Create A Cardboard Self-Portrait

reDiscover Center

Arts

Tags: Art, Communities and People, Creativity, Empathy, Expression, Identity, Self-confidence, Sustainability, Visual Arts

🕒 45 mins

✂️ Grades K - 12

About this Activity

In this activity, students will use creative reuse materials to create self-portraits.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Build upon recycled materials to make a face.
- Learn cardboard techniques to play with recreating features.

Materials

- Teacher must collect Creative Reuse materials for the classroom (including but not limited to):
 - Cardboard
 - Cereal/Tissue Boxes
 - Bottle Caps & Corks
 - Bubble Wrap
 - Toilet Paper Rolls
 - Whatever you can find at home!
- Each student needs these tools:
 - Mirror or photo of themselves
 - Liquid Glue
 - Markers
 - Scissors
 - Optional: Canary Cutter & Hot Glue Gun
- What materials will you make with? If you don't have something, what alternatives can you use?

Preparation

- The teacher should prepare for this lesson by previewing the YouTube video tutorial. This video will be played for students at the start of the lesson as well as a quick demo to learn the goals and scope of this project.

Links:

 [Create a Cardboard Self-Portrait](#)

- Gather materials for the project
 - Suggested: Create a scavenger hunt for your students to bring their own materials from home.
 - Please refer to our Materials Sheet to share with your students/parents

Links:

 [Materials Sheet](#)

- Go through Related Pro Tips Section below with all students using the tools.
 - Pro Tip: "Tool Training: Canary Cutter"
 - Pro Tip: "Tool Training: Hot Glue"

Activity Steps

1. Lead a discussion about our faces and self-esteem. It's good to remind and emphasize with students that "Every face is unique. Every face is beautiful." Ask students: Where do our faces come from?"

Attachments:

 "Every face is unique. Every face is beautiful."

2. Have students gather the materials they want to work with. Must have cardboard to use for the base of our project, as well as tools to cut and stick materials. Let them pick materials from the pile that speak to them.
3. Play the YouTube demonstration video for students: Create a Cardboard Self-Portrait. Encourage students to start working on their portrait as they are watching.

Links:

 [Create a Cardboard Self-Portrait](#)

4. Walk students through the steps:
 - Step 1: What shape is your face going to be?
 - Step 2: Lay down some basic features.
 - Examples: Eyes? Nose? Mouth? What else?
 - Step 3: Add the little details.
 - Will you add eyebrows to show emotions?
 - How will you use textures to add detail?
 - Step 4: Arrange and rearrange your elements to change your selfie's facial expression
 - Step 5: Glue your elements into place.
5. When students finish their portraits, line them all up on a wall to showcase them!

Variations

1. For upper level students (6-8 and 9-12), ask them to consider if they have any markings on their faces and skin that are a part of their identity and to encourage them to showcase these markings. For example, scars and beauty marks are a part of our features that tell stories about us.

Related ProTips