SOCIAL STUDIES

Getting to know the mural of your community

Objectives
- Students will apply their understanding of communities to create a mural depicting how their own community lives and works together.

Materials
- Banner paper
- Art supplies
- Internet

Lesson Plan

Day 1
1. As a class, discuss what elements make up a community (people, places, buildings, etc.). Write them on the white board.
2. With the list on the board that should include items like "firefighters," "City Hall," "local restaurants," "the mailman," etc., go through each one and write down three factors that each contributes to make a functional, well-rounded and safe environment.
3. Encourage them to give examples of how each profession lives and works together. Explore how they interact even having different backgrounds, talents and experiences.
4. After you have enough people and places, assign each student or group with one subject.
5. For homework, students or groups should go through magazines and the Internet and cut or print out pictures of their subject to bring to class.

Day 2
1. Begin the mural by having students create small, colorful nametags on the banner paper where they will contribute their section of the collage.
2. With photos in hand, have students paste their cutouts or printouts they have collected, and allow them to also draw related images on the mural in their areas.
3. Hang the mural on the bulletin board for all to see.
4. For homework, have students or groups come up with a presentation about their subject. This should include job descriptions, location, how their subject interacts with the community, and more.

Day 3
1. Each student or group presents their portion of the "community mural" to the class explaining the role of the person or place and how they contribute to the community.

Extension
Go one step further, and have each student or group reach out to a member in their own community. Have them interview their person or visit their location, and then type up a report or make a follow-up presentation.