

RECYCLED BEADS MOSAICS

TIME REQUIRED

4-10 class periods (50 minutes each)

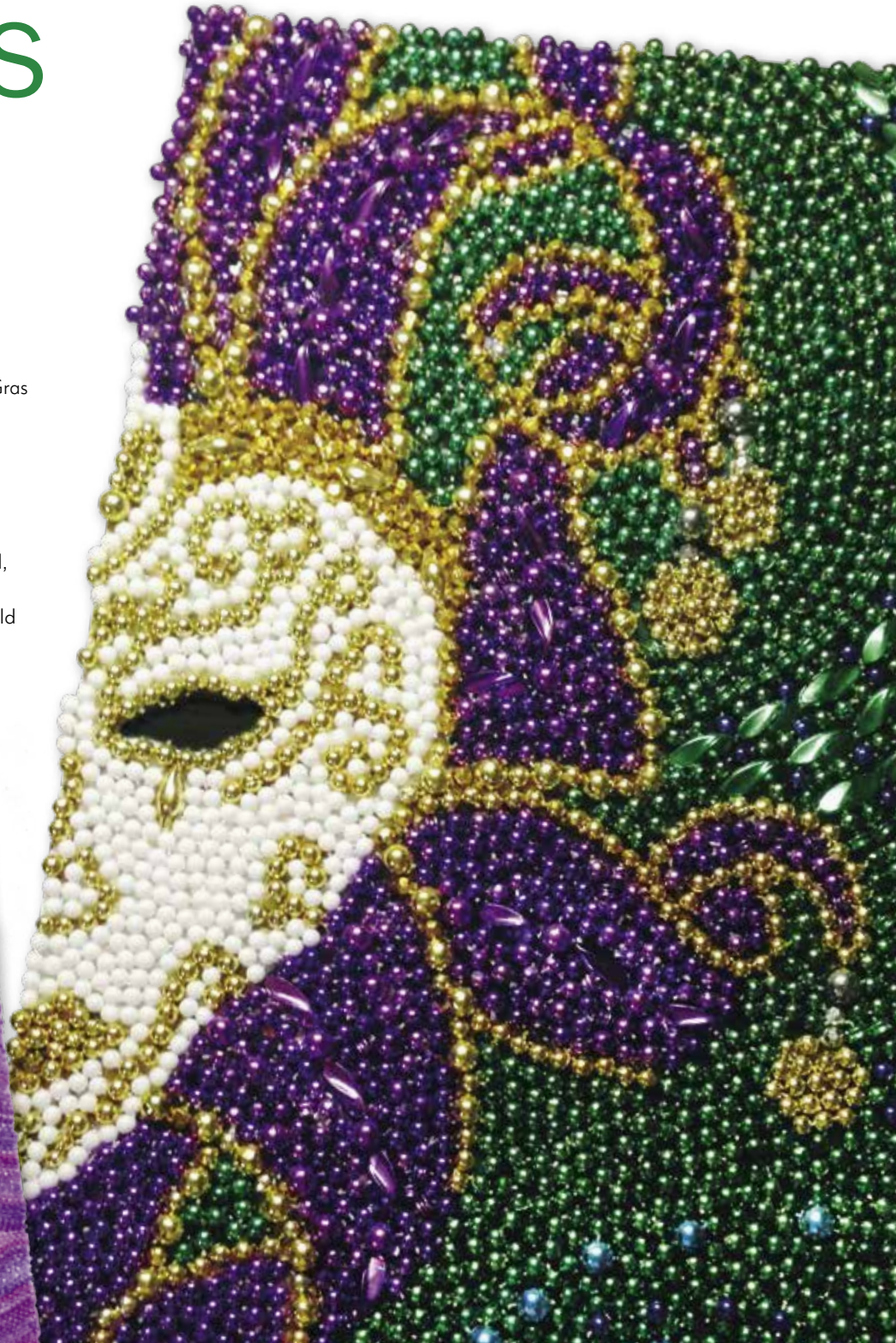
OBJECTIVES

Students will...

- Study the artist Stephan Wanger
- Learn about the history of New Orleans Mardi Gras
- Understand the importance of recycling
- Create a mosaic made of recycled beads

INTRODUCTION

Discuss what Mardi Gras is, why it is celebrated, and how it is celebrated in New Orleans. Make connections with other festivals around the world that are similar (i.e. Brazil's Carnival). Show students some of Stephan Wanger's artworks from galeriaalegria.com. Explain how they are made of recycled Mardi Gras beads, then discuss the importance of recycling.



Developed with Virginia Berthelot
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Grades 1-12

TIPS

- Use a variety of shapes and sizes to create texture
- Hot glue and regular glues won't create as strong of a bond for holding the beads to the frames, especially for large mosaics, but they are more suited for elementary levels
- White adhesive can be used to help create a grout look
- Smaller beads work best

PREPARATION

- Collect beads, cut them off of the strands, then separate them by colour into bags or containers.
- Cut pieces of foam core to desired sizes.



INSTRUCTIONS

1



1. Have students sketch or print an image that represents Mardi Gras on foam core.

2



2. Have students paint their image. Colour choices are optional but should either match or contrast with the bead colour. Let the paint dry.

3



- 3.** Begin covering the main part of your image with the glue, section by section. Choose beads to match or contrast your paint colours and begin to stick them onto the pre-glued area.



TIP

This strong clear adhesive will not dry as fast as other glues, allowing the beads to be manipulated as you work. It may help to use toothpicks for minor adjustments.

4



- 4.** Once you have the main part of your image beaded, start filling in the gaps and the background. Let dry.





MATERIALS LIST

- Bead Extravaganza Bright Rainbow Box — [216227](#)
- Bead Box Set - Pearl — [9732798](#)
- White Foam Core — [9731152](#)
- PRISMACOLOR® Premier Ebony Black Drawing Pencils, box of 12 — [9728151](#)
- Black Foam Core — [9731151](#)
- General's Charcoal White® Pencils — [9703438](#)
- Industrial Strength Jewellery and Bead Adhesive (1 oz.) — [9736074](#)
- Nasco Bulk-Krylic® Acrylic Paint, set of 6 pints — [9715538](#)
- Mardi Gras beads
- Cups/bags for separating
- Scissors
- Erasers
- Toothpicks

MODIFICATIONS

- For elementary students, use Nasco's Country School Glue instead of High-Strength Adhesive
- Use loose beads, sequins, buttons, or seeds instead of Mardi Gras beads
- Use mat board, scrap wood, or picture frames in place of foam core
- Cut out shapes of foam core and layer to create 3-D images
- Have students make their own beads out of air-dry clay
- Have students create a large group bead mosaic of your school mascot

RESOURCES

galeriaalegria.com/
recyclescene.com/how-to-recycle/recycle-mardi-gras-beads
mardigrasneworleans.com
colormegood.com/holidays/mardigras.html



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