

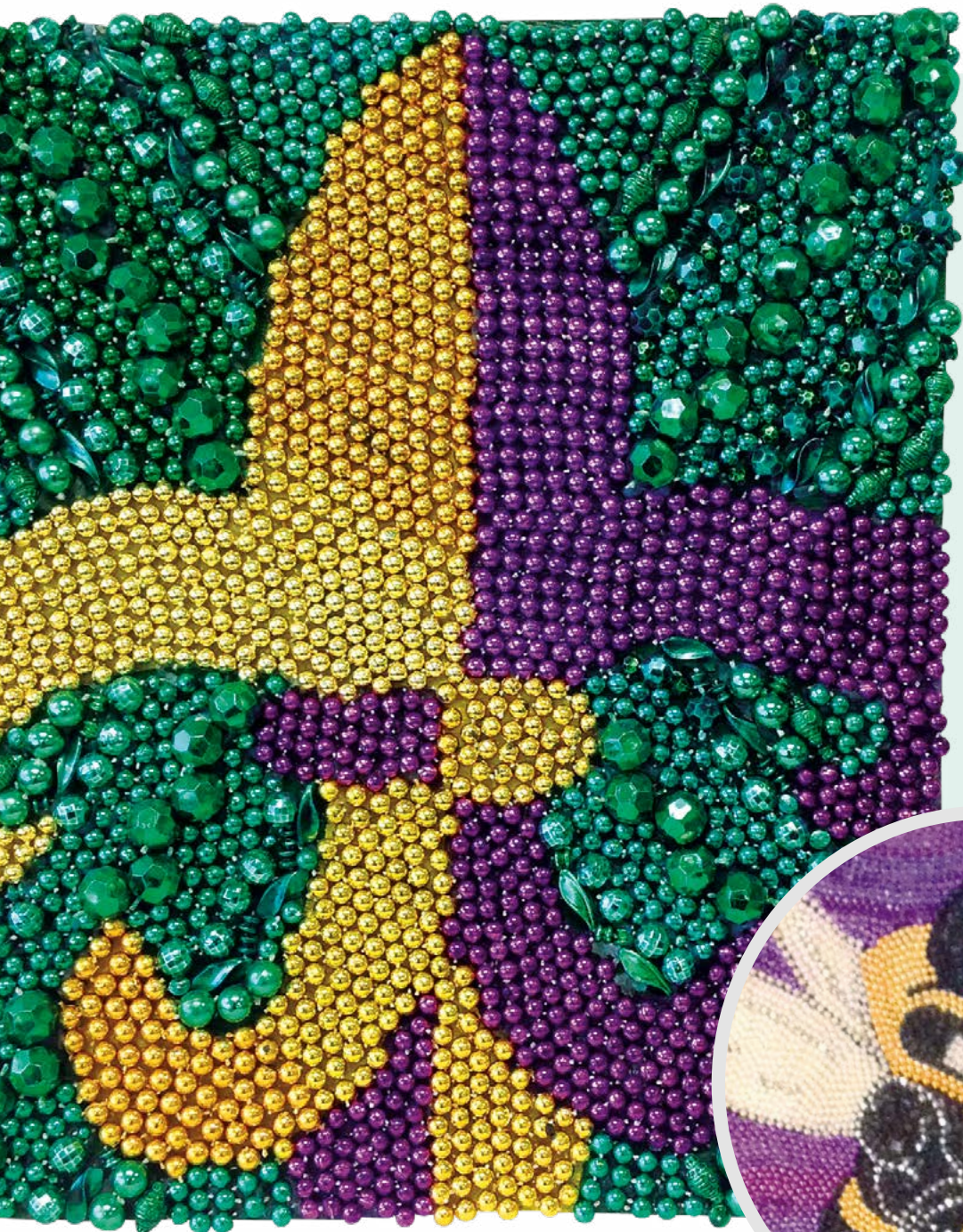


Developed with Virginia Berthelot, Denham Springs High School, LA

Recycled beads mosaics

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Time: 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 and explain how they are made of recycled Mardi Gras beads, then discuss the importance of recycling.



Lesson prep

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

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

Instructions



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



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

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

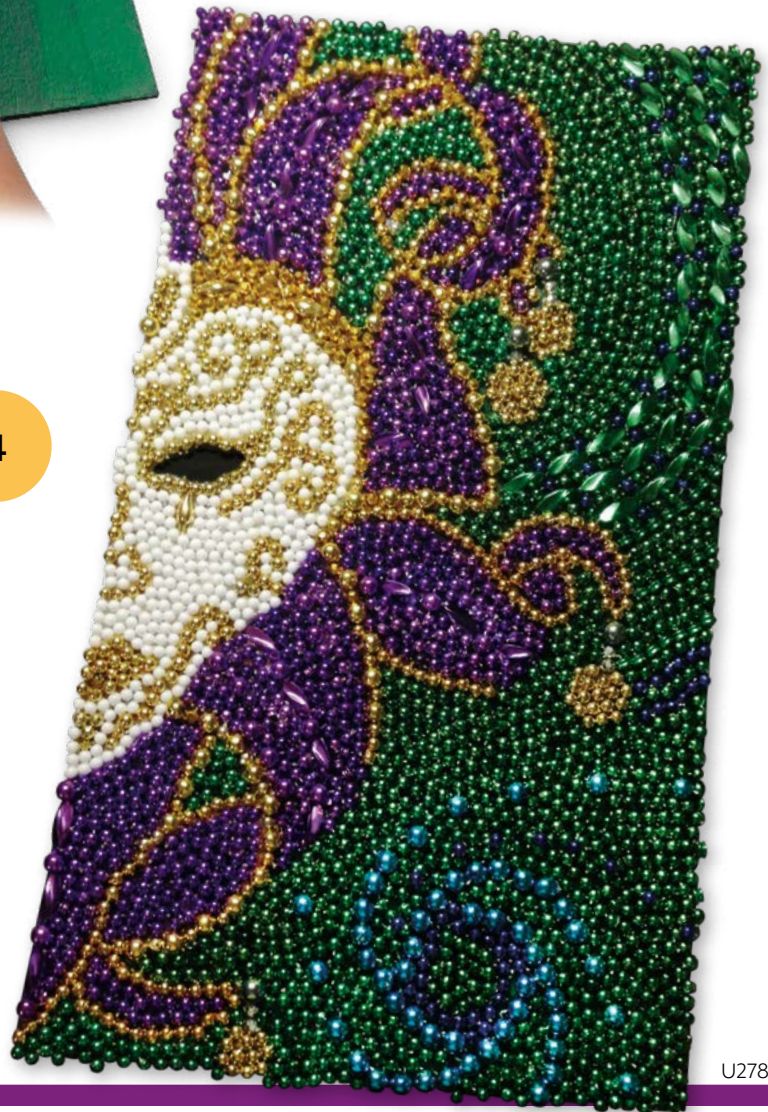
Tip

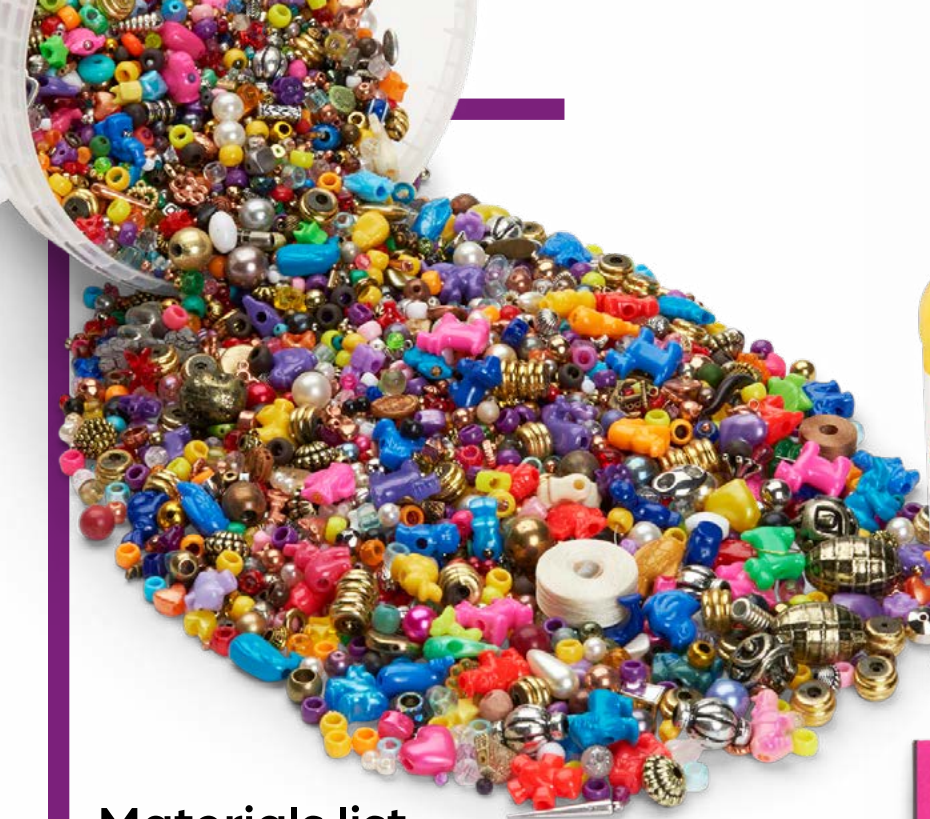
It may help to use toothpicks for minor adjustments.

4



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





Materials list

- Nasco Bucket O' Beads and Charms (9718093)
- White Foam Core (9731152)
- PRISMACOLOR® Premier Ebony Black Drawing Pencils, box of 12 (9728151)
- Black Foam Core (9731151)
- General's Charcoal White® Pencils (9703438)
- Supertite® Multi-Grab 360®, 2-oz. (60 ml) tube (9742367)
- Nasco Acrylic Paint, Pint Set #1 - Mixed Colors (9715538)
- Mardi Gras beads
- Erasers
- Cups/bags for separating
- Toothpicks
- Scissors

Modifications

- For elementary students, use Elmer's 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

mardigrasneworleans.com
 colormegood.com/holidays/mardigras.html

