



# Art Project Plan

## Mola Collage



Project Author: Mary Bortz • Sponsor: Sargent Art • Grades: K-4  
Time: Three lessons, 45 minutes each

### Project:

1. Introduce students to Kuna Indian mola art and have them view several molas (visit [www.molaartandcraft.com](http://www.molaartandcraft.com) for images). Look at the different types of images used in the molas.
2. Instruct students to sketch traditional images such as animals, reptiles, stars, or non-traditional images for their molas. (For younger students, teacher may make templates to trace.)
3. Next, students pick a few of their favorite sketches and cut them out to use as patterns to trace and cut out of construction paper.
4. Have students paste the first construction paper cut-outs onto construction paper in a different color, and then cut out, allowing a border of the second color to show.
5. Students then paste the double-image to construction paper in a third color, allowing a border of the third color to show. Have students repeat steps 4 and 5 with all of the images they chose.
6. Have students paste an 8.5" x 12.5" colored piece of construction paper on the window area of the KidsArt Fairs paper canvas, and then arrange their mola images within that window and glue in place.



### Mola Collages of the Kuna Indians:

**Molas** are the colorful, richly decorated art works made by the Kuna Indian women who live on the San Blas Islands near Panama. Many layers of cloth are stitched together by hand. Their images depict animals, nature, and everyday life. Molas average 16" x 19" in size and take about two months to complete.



Authentic Mola

### Materials:

(see recommendations on next page)

- KidsArt Fairs paper
- Glue sticks
- Broad tip markers
- Glitter glue
- Pencils
- Construction paper in a variety of colors
- Scissors

### Objective:

Students will design an original paper mola collage, using layers of paper and markers. Students will develop their ideas around the principles and elements of design. Completed art works will incorporate traditional and contemporary symbols and patterns.

**Purpose:** Students will compare and discuss commonalities and differences in their own environments/cultures and those of the Kuna Indians, referring specifically to the importance of mola art as their livelihood. The completed mola collages will help students understand how every culture is unique and how art tells us who we are.



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### Project continued:

- Students then cut shapes and create patterns from different colors of construction paper to paste onto the background paper on the KidsArt Fairs paper canvas.
- Have students use markers and glitter glue to add or enhance details or the original mola images. Black markers can be used to create the effect of stitching between the layers of paper.
- When molas are complete and dry, have each artist sign their work in the lower right-hand corner. Use the Signature Template as a guide to position the signature where it will be visible when framed.



Teacher-Prepared Sample Artwork in KidsArt Fairs Gallery-Style Frame

### Applicable National Standards for Visual Arts Grades K-4:

- Content Standard 1: Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes
- Content Standard 2: Using knowledge of structure and functions
- Content Standard 3: Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas
- Content Standard 4: Understanding the visual art in relation to history and culture
- Content Standard 5: Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others

### Sargent Art Recommended Materials:

22-1405  
Glue Stick



22-1530  
Broad Tip  
Markers



23-1803  
Glitter Glue

