

# The World Needs

## Art Activism



(Image description: a hexagon made up of 6 triangles each with a photo of a mural from around the world)

Middle School/ High School Worksheet

### learn about it.

In the "The World Needs: Art Activism" video, our global peers shared about murals from their country or region that raised awareness about social issues important to them. These murals were a form of **artivism**.

The term "artivism" was introduced in the 1960s as a way of describing demonstrations in the United States against the Vietnam War. However, in every successful social movement, there have always been artists, especially from marginalized communities, who have combined art and activism to create a new vision for society.

**Artivists** use a variety of art mediums to raise social, environmental, political, or technological awareness. Artivism is different from **propaganda** because, instead of telling the recipient what to think and feel, artivism inspires the recipient to **think critically** and deepen their **empathy**.

### think about it.

Murals are an effective form of artivism because they can be used to raise awareness about global or national issues or to raise awareness about issues specific to local communities and neighborhoods. They are powerful because their size and color attract large audiences and then ask them to reflect on the social issue presented.

**Do some research about murals in your country or region. Then answer the following questions.**

1. Who is the artist?

2. What is the artist raising awareness about?

3. What does the mural mean to you?

4. What actions do you hope it inspires?

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### talk about it.

Find a friend, classmate, or family member and discuss any of the following questions:

- **Why do you think art is important to social movements?**
- **What is a social issue that is important to you? How have you seen art used to inspire action about this issue?**
- **Share about a piece of art that you find moving.**

### be about it!

Now it's time to take action. Using the SMARTIE goals framework below, **create two goals for being an art-ivist.**

- **Goal #1: How will you learn more about a social issue important to you?**
- **Goal #2: How will you use art to bring awareness about the issue to your community (home, school, neighborhood)?**

	GOAL #1	GOAL #2
<b><u>S</u>pecific</b> What specifically do you want to do?		
<b><u>M</u>easurable</b> How will you know when you've reached your goal?		
<b><u>A</u>chievable</b> Is this goal within your power to accomplish?		
<b><u>R</u>elevant</b> Is your goal aligned with the issue?		
<b><u>T</u>ime bound</b> When exactly do you want to accomplish this goal?		
<b><u>I</u>nclusive</b> Does it bring in traditionally marginalized people?		
<b><u>E</u>quitable</b> Does it acknowledge that systemic injustice, inequity and oppression exist?		