

Murals: Our Talking Walls

A mural is a painting or other work of art that is done on a wall. Murals can be done with paint, chalk, a rock that leaves marking on the wall, spaghetti sauce, you name it. People have been drawing and painting things on walls for millennia. They can tell us many things about people like what type of clothes they wore, what type of animals they had as pets or the types of food they ate. Have you ever drawn anything on walls? Have you seen a mural before? Sometimes schools will have their mascots painted on a wall, maybe your school has one. Let's see what kinds of things walls can tell us. Take a moment to look at the two pictures below and answer the questions.



What do you see? What do you think is happening?
What does it tell you about Ancient Egypt?



What do you see? What do you think is happening?
What does it tell you about life 10,000 years ago?



Diego Rivera

He was born in 1886 in Guanajuato, Mexico. He helped establish the Mexican Muralist Movement. He was so well known that he came to the United States and created murals here too. One of those murals is in San Francisco titled Pan American Unity.

Diego Rivera was known for putting things about himself in his murals. For example Diego and his wife, Frida, had a dog named Mr. Xolotl which he sometimes painted into his murals. He would also very often paint Frida into his murals as well. Rivera was not afraid to paint himself and his community.

The three paintings below are details of Rivera's Pan American Unity.

Which two of the three is Diego Rivera in?

Which one has his pet, Mr. Xolotl?

Which one can you see his wife, Frida Kahlo?



Draw Your Own Mural

Diego Rivera's murals tell us about his pets and wife and where he lived. Use the space provided to draw a mural that will tell a fellow classmate about you. Think about....

1. A pet or favorite animal
2. A family member
3. Yourself
4. Someone important to you from school

