

American Windows by Marc Chagall :60 Lesson Plan

I. Ask the class if anyone remembers a dream they had last night.

- A. Lead a discussion on dreams about things that may have happened in their life or things that may happen to them in the future.
- B. Then talk about fantasy dreams - dreams that may never happen or exaggerated events like flying cows or purple goats.

II. Read I Am Marc Chagall by Biba Landmann - post discussion questions

- A. What county was Marc Chagall from?
- B. What time period did he live in? (born 1887, lived 1900's or 20th century)
- C. What events did Marc Chagall live through during this time? (WWI, WWII)
- D. How did his surroundings effect his art
 - a. He painted to escape the reality happening around him- he created a world of his own
 - b. He painted his dreams or fantasies
 - c. He painted images from his childhood (goats, cows, hometown village, wife Bella)

III. Show Marc Chagall's painting Bella - Does this look realistic or like a dream

- A. Ask what makes it look abstract/not real?
- B. Talk about Chagall's use of color
- C. Talk about how Chagall covers every part of the painting, no wasted space

IV. Introduce American Windows (show image from computer smart board)

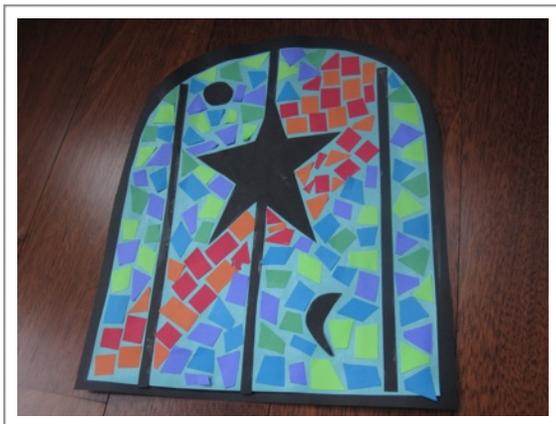
- A. Located in Chicago at the Art Institute
- B. Talk about the size (8ft by 32 ft) way too big to bring here so we have a slide
- C. Talk about artistic mediums - why was stained glass a great medium for Chagall
 - a. He loved color
 - b. He loved to cover his entire masterpiece with color, no empty space
 - c. Used it to tell a story, either his dreams, childhood, or biblical stories
 - d. This story is about beautiful America where there was freedom

V. Introduce Four Seasons (show image from computer smart board)

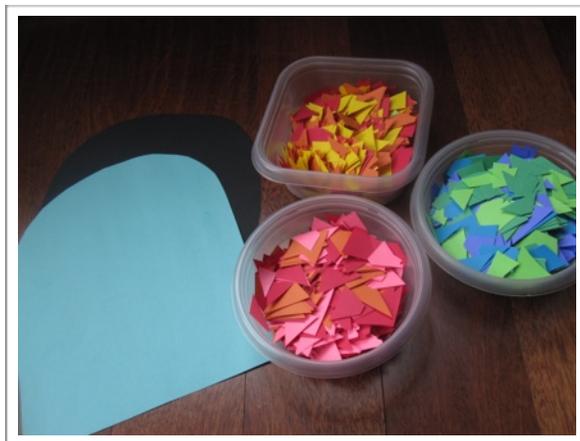
- A. Located in Chicago at the Chase Plaza downtown
- B. Talk about the size (70ft by 14ft by 10ft) way too big to bring here so we have a slide
- C. Talk about the artistic medium - mosaic was also a great medium for Chagall
 - a. He loved color (Four Season has 250 different colors)
 - b. He loved to cover the entire piece with art, no empty space
 - c. Used it to tell a story, either his dreams, childhood, or biblical stories
 - d. This story is about the beauty, color and transitions of the four seasons.

VI. Art Project - Stained Glass Art with a Mosaic tone

- A. Have the students return to their seats
- B. Distribute on large sheet of black construction paper and one large sheet of sky blue construction paper.
- C. Let students decide if they want to create an arch window or rectangular window. Cut the black paper accordingly and then cut the sky blue paper 90% size of black paper. Glue the blue paper on top of the black paper
- D. Have the students cut out black shapes to fit inside their window (moons, stars, animals)
- E. Have the students cut out window panes and glue on paper
- F. Have the students fill in all remaining areas of the window with small colorful pieces of paper (I precut small pieces of paper, mostly triangular shapes) and put them in tupperware containers by color)
- G. Remind the students that this is their dream or fantasy window and they can create any story they want.



**VII.
Wrap
up**



exercise

- A. Who is the name of the artist we studied today?
- B. Name one of his famous works of art? Where is it located?
- C. Name another one of his famous works of art? Where is it located?
- D. Name one nifty fact about how Chagall painted (vibrant colors, abstract, dreams, fantasies, painted on all mediums, filled the entire masterpiece with color)