

Mapping with Memory

A Collage Activity based on

A Map of Meagher's Grant by Evelyn Dickie

Lesson plan prepared by Jenny Yujia Shi for the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.

Suggested Grade/Age Levels

Adaptable for Grade 2-12.

Encourage younger students to focus on the composition of colour, shape and textures from memory; encourage older students to focus on accuracy, details in their drawing and techniques that require higher motor skills such as embroidery and applique.

Subject Areas

- Visual Arts
- Social Studies
- Language Arts
- Geography

Introduction

About the Artist

A Map of Meagher's Grant is a handmade quilt created in 1975 by artist Evelyn Dickie. The quilt features a map of Meagher's Grant—a rural community in the Musquodoboit valley of Nova Scotia. This was the community where Dickie was born and called home. She spent most of her career working at the local Post Office, where she got to know her community very well. In an interview with the artist, Dickie shared that she first started making quilts to keep her family warm, but it soon became an activity she enjoyed as a hobby. For her quilted Map of Meagher's grant, Dickie started with a graph of the map "as she saw it" and completed the quilt using needle and thread.



Evelyn Dickie
Map of Meaghers Grant, 1975.
Cotton, 222.5 x 197.0 cm
Purchase, 1977

About the Activity

This is a collage activity inspired by Map of Meagher's Grant. It can be completed using paper or fabric. It is a process where students use a combination of colours, textures, shapes to create a map of a special place from their memory. Detailed marker drawings or embroidery can be added to embellish the map with a personal touch. This is a great activity to do to celebrate the neighbourhood we live in or a home from the past that holds dear to our heart.

Set Up

- Access to a table
- For paper collage, adhesive materials such as tape, glue or glue sticks.
- For fabric collage, access to needle and thread or a sewing machine are required

Materials

For paper collage:

- Flat surface such as printer paper, cardboard
- Collage papers: construction paper, newspaper, flyers, wrapping paper or materials that can be easily cut with a pair of scissors or torn by hand.
 - * when choosing your materials, look for different colours and textures
- Scissors
- Pencil, markers, crayons, sharpies, colour pencils, any colouring tools you have at home
- White glue, glue stick or tape

For fabric collage:

- Piece of fabric, like canvas or cotton
- Recycled produce netting, bubble wrap, paper towel or landscape fabric.
- Needle and thread
- Ribbon for creating a border

Process

Paper Map:

- Lay out your paper on the table and sketch out your map with a pencil. Start with large geographic shapes such as streets, rivers, or water.
- Choose colours and textured paper, cut/tear them into shapes to fill in your map
 - *if you don't have a specific coloured paper, use any colouring tool on paper to create your own coloured paper.
 - *flyers and packaging are great resources for colours and textures
- Glue your large pieces in place first
- Now think about details you want to add to your map. In *Map of Meagher's Grant*, Evelyn Dickie chose houses, trees, lakes and streets to compose her map.



Ask yourself questions such as what is special about the place you are mapping? Are there any special objects, people or memories about this place?

- Draw them on a piece of paper, cut and paste them on your map
- Use another sheet of paper that is the same size, cut the center out to create a frame for your map.
*This imitates the colourful border around Evelyn Dickie's quilt.
- To finish, add names or special notes to your map with pencil or a marker.

Fabric Map:

- Lay your fabric on the table
- Sketch out your map with a piece of chalk or a pencil directly on the fabric
- Choose colours and texture from your scrap fabric and trim them into shape to fill in the map. Again, think about what each area of your map means for you when selecting colours and textures.
- Next, use needle and thread or a sewing machine to stitch your fabric in place
- If you have ribbons or even shoelaces, you can stitch them on the edge of your map to create a border.
- To finish, embroider text or a special note on your map.

