



MAP MURAL PROJECT

THIRD GOAL TOOLKIT

The purpose of World Map Mural Project is to provide schools and community centers with a wall-sized world map in a highly visible location. The directions below are suggestions from others who have run similar events.

Objective: This project seeks to encourage young people to think beyond their classroom walls and expand their geographic knowledge.

Target Audience: students, youth

Budget: \$250-\$450 depending on size of mural and quality of paint. Peace Corps will not be providing funds.

Estimated time commitment: 10-12 hours over the course of three days

People Power:

	Activity	Adults	Youth
Day 1	Paint background light blue	2	0
Day 2 (4 hours)	Map tracing and color coding	4 –8	0
Day 3 (4-6 hours)	Color in countries and paint contour around continents and all islands	8-12	12
Day 4 (2-3 hours)	Finish/Touch up	4-8	5-10

Materials/Supplies:

Material	Quantity	Notes
Paint & Supplies		
Light blue paint	1/2 - 1 gallons depending on size	for map background (verify if enamel or latex paint is required based on the existing wall paint)
Paint in primary or other basic colors	¼-1/2 gallons depending on size	for countries/continents (acrylic recommended; you can mix your own colors if desired)
Medium/dark blue paint	¼ gallon depending on size	for continent outline (acrylic recommended)
Brushes	24	Ranging from artistic brushes sized 1 - 10 to ½"
Black markers	Regular size (12) Large (12)	
Baby food jars with lids	8-10	For mixing paint
Paper towels or baby wipes	3-5 rolls	
Water containers	At least two per color	
Paint thinner or mineral spirits	1-2 bottles	Only required if using enamel-based paint and if touch up is needed for the background
Other Materials		
Black and white world map on overhead transparency		
Color world map		
Overhead projector	Day 1 only	
Extension cord		
Step stools	Need 4-5	
Tall ladder	For adult use only	
Cloth or plastic sheets	To cover floor while painting	

Heavy metal ruler or yardstick	for drawing Equator, Tropic of Cancer/Capricorn
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Pre-activities:

- Select a location (usually a school)
- Recruit volunteers to help with the project

Schedule of Activities**Day 1**

Paint the background (8'x 15') light blue at least two days in advance of project. Give ample time for the paint to dry and settle. It is common for the school to take care of this part. Be sure to ask the principal to provide some leftover paint on Day 4 for touch-ups.

Day 2

Set up overhead projector and overhead template. Then using a black marker, trace the map outlines of continents and countries. Continent and/or ocean labels, longitude and latitude lines, equator, tropic of Cancer/Capricorn can be added later, if desired. Finally, using the color map template as a guide, paint a speck of color on each country so that students can fill paint on Day 3.

Day 3

Working alongside Volunteers, students fill in paint color on countries. Adults or students with a steady hand should use medium blue to paint contour around continents and all islands.

Day 4

This day is primarily for adults, but students who have a steady hand and show attention to detail can also participate.

First touch up the paint on the map where necessary. It may be necessary to use the light blue background paint. If using enamel, you will need paint thinner for cleanup.

Once the touch-ups have dried, use large-sized black markers to retrace the outline of all countries and continents. Using a sturdy yardstick or heavy metal ruler, trace over latitude lines; use dashed lines for equator, and Tropics. Retrace country and ocean labels.

Optional

Build cork border around map to showcase geography related school activities and posters.

After Painting—Inauguration Ceremony

Consider holding an inauguration ceremony to officially present the mural to the school. While this project can happen at any time of year, you may have more traction hosting the inauguration ceremony in late November around International Education Week or early March for Peace Corps Week.

Talk to your principal about inviting school board members and community leaders to the ceremony.

Inauguration activities can include:

- Returned Peace Corps Volunteers staff country tables with information/artifacts from countries of service.
- Geography bee ([GeoBee](#)) with simple prizes.

Don't forget to send a thank you note to everyone who contributed to the success of the project.

Media

Have a digital camera handy at each step of the process. Coordinate with the principal to invite the press for a feature story. Get media releases from attendees before publicly posting pictures and/or videos of the event.

Share photos of your progress over the course of the project on Twitter or Facebook. Make sure to tag @PeaceCorps and your RPCV group account if one exists. Send photos with captions to rpcv@peacecorps.gov so Peace Corps can also promote your great work!



Resources

- Peace Corps resources:
 - <http://www.peacecorps.gov/educators/>
- World Map Sources:
 - <http://www.atlapedia.com>
 - <http://plasma.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine/>
- Geography Project Sources:
 - <http://www.lessonplanet.com/search/Geography>
 - www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson071.shtml
- Flag Sources:
 - <https://flagspot.net/flags/index.html>

Contact information: rpcv@peacecorps.gov

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