



**eva**  
**ELEMENTARY VISUAL ARTS**  
Park City Education Foundation • Kimball Art Center

LESSON  
**2**

**Romare Bearden**

Community - Illustration

Verbal Directions



## LESSON OVERVIEW

Romare Beardon (1912-88) was a North Carolina born artist well-known for his collages depicting his community and African-American culture. Students will learn about the artist Romare Bearden and his collages. They will then create an artwork that shows vibrant community using color and collage.

### INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

- Learn about the artist Romare Bearden and his life
- Explore color and collage
- Develop ideas about community
- Create a collage from personal experience.

### ROMARE BEARDEN



Romare Beardon (1912-88 ) was a North Carolina born artist well-known for his collages depicting his community and African-American culture. Bearden spent much of his career in New York City. He was self-taught and aspired to be a cartoonist. He often supported himself by working as a political cartoonist for African-American newspapers. Bearden studied art, education, science, and mathematics, graduating with a degree in science and education. In his art he was interested in painting his own life experiences. His first paintings show scenes of the American South. Abstract painting was very popular at the time, but Bearden wanted to share stories with his art. So he decided to experiment by combining images from magazines and colored paper. These collages showed music, his neighborhood and family and captured the energy of the rhythms, textures, and motion of people and culture. [Learn More](#)



### SUPPLIES

- Magazines
- Cardstock
- Glue sticks
- Scissors.
- Images of Romare Bearden's art work.
- Oil Pastels
- Construction paper

# LESSON PLAN

1. Introduce Romare Bearden and share images of his artwork and the story of his life. Take a closer look at the images and discuss:

- What do you see? What is happening in these images?
- How are they put together?
- What do you notice about the color?

*Bearden grew up in the middle of the Harlem Renaissance, and much of his art reflected that influence from Harlem's link to the South, the connection to music and musicians, and the overall excitement and creative energy that filled and inspired the people of Harlem.*

2. Share about the culture and Harlem at that time. Then ask students:

- What is community?
- What does it look like in your life when people come together?

3. Brainstorm and sketch ideas of what community looks like.

4. Show how Romare Bearden uses multiple images to create a person or a scene. Pass out magazines and have students start cutting out images of people and environments. Paste images together on cardstock.

5. Using construction paper and oil pastels add color to show the mood and fill in the background or details.

EVA+: Think about music and what that experience looks like, draw a scene or a musical instrument using oil pastels.







## KEY IDEAS THAT CONNECT TO NATIONAL CORE ARTS STANDARDS: Based on National Core Arts Standards visual Arts Requirements (3rd Grade).

### VA:Cr2.3.5a:

Identify, describe, and visually document places and/or objects of personal significance.

### VA:Re.7.1.5a:

Compare one's own interpretation of a work of art with the interpretation of others.

### 4a VA:Cn11.1.5a:

I identify how art is used to inform or change beliefs, values, or behaviors of an individual or society.



## ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Click on links to learn more.

- <https://beardenfoundation.org/romare-bearden/>
- <https://www.nga.gov/content/dam/ngaweb/Education/learning-resources/teaching-packets/pdfs/bearden-tchpk.pdf>
- <https://americanart.si.edu/artist/romare-bearden-296>
- <https://www.sfmoma.org/watch/trains-snakes-and-guitars-the-collages-of-romare-bearden/>
- <https://beardenfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/teacherpacket.pdf>

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