

# Trivial Pursuit and the art of Harold Town

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All images by grade 5-8 students

## Objectives

To understand that collage is a recognized art form.

Be able to place objects properly on a paper to achieve a good composition

Be able to create unity between forms on a page when using collage techniques.

Learn more about the trivial pursuit questions by reading through them to find some for their piece.

Be able to recognize the art of Harold Town.

Use real texture in their work through the application of various mediums.

Demonstrate the ability to perceive visual details and add more visual details where needed.

## Bio Harold Town (insert from Website)

It is important when viewing the piece by Harold Town on the internet National Gallery of Canada Cybermuse site that you point out that he created harmony in his piece through the use of repetition and through placement of colour. The colour red appears in all areas of the piece in different forms. The top of the piece has the dripping red paint and the bottom right hand corner has the red fan. Also point out the sheet music on the lower right corner does not stand out but is blended into the background so as not to attract attention. He does this through over painting the sheet music once it is attached to the piece. He also creates unity and harmony through the repetition of the drinking straws inserted into the holes in the back of the television panel. He does not place his focal point (which I see as the fan) in the center of the piece. It is important that children are aware that the focal point is far more effective when it is not in the center of the piece.

## Information on the invention of Trivial Pursuit (from website)



### **Materials**

Old Trivial Pursuit games (available at garage sales very cheaply)

Various collage materials

Magazines

Newspapers

Photographs

Maps

Game pieces from other board games

Stiff paper on which to create the collage.

Tempera paint

Glue stick

Hot glue guns

Ziploc bags

## Resources

The Canadian Inventions Book - Janis Nostbakken and Jack Humphrey

Canada Invents - Susan Hughes

Inventors and Inventions - Lorraine Hopping Egan

Canadian Women Invent - Annie Wood



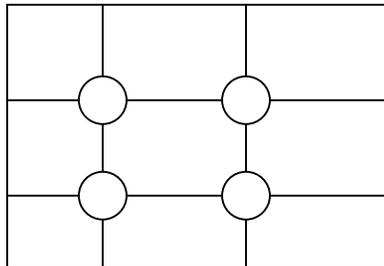
## Procedure

The students were given an assortment of Trivial Pursuit cards to look through. They were to look for a card that interested them or had facts that they thought would make an interesting collage.

I demonstrated how the cards can be split into two parts questions and answers from the same card by carefully pulling the cards apart.

I demonstrated how these cards could be placed in a interesting way onto the stiff paper.

The rule of thirds can be applied when placing a subject in an interesting focal point. The image area divided into thirds both way, and the intersecting lines being a great place to put the focal point. The circles on the following grid indicate the best place to put the focal point.



The children were then given time to search for images that pertained to their cards, I tried to discourage the use of the internet whenever possible as the best products were the ones that used magazines, hand drawn images and newspaper. (Keep all of their materials in a Ziploc bag to avoid having them lost) I figured this out too late, I used folders and this was not an effective method.

Once the children had assembled all of their materials they were to arrange them in many different ways looking for the most interesting formation of the collage materials.

The children then painted the negative space. Many children chose to do a striped background, I would discourage this as it creates a very busy image once the collage elements are added. Some did do wonderfully textured backgrounds using various techniques.

The children glued on the various collage elements.

The children used various painting techniques to make their images and collage pieces work together and to add visual details. (See blending on

piece by Haylee) Splashing on the piece by Erin and pencil crayon on the piece by Maxwell.

Some children chose to have only the trivial pursuit card with answers on their final product others chose to have both the answers and questions and still others chose to cut apart the cards to create a very interesting piece.