

Year 6 – Lesson Plan 1 - ART

How Can You Express Identity Through Art?

Aim: To create a self-portrait using mixed media that expresses personal identity, emotion, and symbolism.	Key Words: • identity • symbolism • expression • mixed media • composition	Preparation: • A4/A3 paper or canvas • Magazines/newspapers for collage • Paints, coloured pencils, oil pastels, pens • Glue, scissors • Mirrors • Examples of expressive or abstract portraits (e.g. Picasso, Frida Kahlo, Chris Ofili)
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Prior Learning: Children will have used drawing and colour to show character or emotion in previous portraits.

WC / PT	Warm-up: Show expressive portraits. Ask: <i>What do these portraits tell us about the person? How do colours, patterns, or objects help express their identity?</i>	0-5 mins
WC	Main Teach: Discuss what “identity” means. Demonstrate how to build a self-portrait using mixed media — painting, drawing, and collage. Children can include objects, words, or symbols that represent their personality, hobbies, beliefs, or dreams.	5-10 mins
I / S	Activity: Children sketch a loose self-portrait, then build layers using materials provided. Encourage thoughtful composition and use of colour/symbolism to represent emotions or identity.	10-30 mins
I	Extension Challenge: Add meaningful words or quotes around the artwork to reflect the person they are or want to be.	30-35 mins
WC	Plenary: Children share and reflect. Ask: <i>Which materials did you enjoy using? What does your artwork say about you? How did you make artistic choices to express your identity?</i>	35-40 mins

WC – Whole Class

PT – Partner Talk

I – Independent

S - Support

Challenge A	Write a short autobiography or poem to accompany your portrait.
Challenge B	Create a presentation about a famous artist who used art to express personal identity.