

**Illinois State Museum – MuseumLink Art**  
**Making Connections: Exploring Four Themes through Art: Class Collage from Print Sources**

**Purpose:** to help the students understand that we can make connections when we look at fine art objects for setting, subject matter, style, mood, etc., and when we look at decorative art objects for ornament, shape, use, or decoration, etc.

**Illinois State Museum Web sites used:**

(<http://www.museum.state.il.us/muslink/art/htmls/mc.html>)

**Objectives:** After viewing the Theme Galleries online, the students will make connections between art objects based on their form, content, ornament, or decoration by choosing images that have something in common and assembling them together into a collage and naming its theme.



**Grade level:** 5-8

**Time Required:** two 50-minute periods

**Materials:**

fine-art or decorative-art images printed out from museum Web sites  
images of art works(photocopied from art books  
a collection of magazines with images of art  
graphic art, newspapers images of decorative arts objects, probably for sale,  
brochures (from museums, galleries), and ephemera (greeting card art, graphic art on certificates, diplomas, calendars)

Scissors

glue

poster board

**Motivation:** Discuss the idea of theme and making connections between works of art, the main idea of the Theme Galleries. Ask students to suggest other themes that are found in life today — success, beauty, nature, family, youth, and others. Explain that as each individual or group looks for images and sorts them, each may find numerous images that could relate to one topic or theme. Hold up a few pre-selected sets of images and ask the students what connections they can make among them. Some students may want to choose one of the themes explored in the galleries. Warn them that **it may be more difficult to look for objects on a predetermined theme than to find connections or a theme across some of the images they find.**

**Procedure:** Students will

- look for images of fine art or decorative art objects in print sources.
- select the images for a theme and cut them out.

- play with arrangements until finding the one that best interprets the student's meaning.
- glue the images onto the poster board.
- name their collage to reflect the theme, writing it on the back.
- prepare to explain their collage.

**Publication and Closure:** Display the collages. Each student (or a representative from each group) will explain what connections they made between the images they found, or why they chose certain images for their theme. Audience members could participate by guessing what connection they think other students made, or offering their insight into the theme.

**Assessment:** Collages should reflect a purposeful composition or expressive arrangement of images. The explanation should be clear about what the theme is and how and why students made the connections between the images.

**Illinois State Board of Education Goals and Standards addressed:**

**Visual Arts:**

**Middle School: 25.A.3d:** Identify and describe ...the expressive qualities of thematic development and sequence.

**25.B.3:** Compare and contrast the elements and principles in two or more art works that share similar themes.