

## RIVERA, DIEGO *Pan American Unity*



**Primary Focus:** Mural as an art medium

**Secondary Focus:** Composition

Diego Rivera's intricate and dynamic mural celebrates the achievements of the American continents and espouses a discussion of public art.

Murals are an interesting topic to discuss because they are a unique medium that is (usually) very accessible to the public. Previously, many of the paintings the students have seen were painted mostly for private owners. As you read through the bio information in the folder you will discover how the mural fits into Rivera's philosophy. He strongly believed that art should be accessible to all classes of people.

**Medium.** This art term should be defined and discussed. There are several new mediums introduced in this grade.

**Composition.** This immense mural took a lot of planning for the artist. Discuss how he balanced the work with color and placement of figures.

**Math Skills.** Have the class estimate how much of a classroom wall this mural would take up. This will give them a better understanding of the scale.

**IMPORTANT.** If the students have studied their unit on Mexico during or after you are scheduled to present this please emphasize that connection.

### **AT HOME ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS:**

The web site [Riveramural.com](http://Riveramural.com) is a great resource to look closer at the mural and obtain more information. Visit the Glen Ellyn Post Office to view their mural.

### **Some questions to pose:**

- What other mediums have you seen before?
- How do you think Rivera planned out the large space for this mural?
- Do you think he achieved a balanced composition? And why?
- Can you spot any historical figures in this work?
- Can you think of a mural you have seen? (The downtown Glen Ellyn post office has a great one).
- What do you think the title of this mural means? Do you think it is a good title?