



The Jewish Art Adventure: Piven-style Collage

Topic

Yom Ha'atzma'ut, Israel

Grade Level(s)

All ages

Note: This could also be done as an all-school family activity.

Goals for the Lesson/Activity

Students will:

- Use art as a medium to demonstrate knowledge about one aspect of Israel (e.g. geographic areas, leaders, cities)
- Gain familiarity with an important Israeli artist
- Practice ways to utilize found objects to express messages



Materials needed

- [Examples](#) of Hanoch Piven's art
- Small found objects (things not typically associated with art) collected by the class such as: dry plant parts, plastic utensils, toy parts, buttons, screws, feathers, fabric and paper scraps, and household objects
- Pencils and erasers
- 11" x 17" thick board (cardboard or foam-core) for each participant
- White plastic glue (Elmer's)
- A few glue guns (operated by a teacher with safe access to an electric plug) and Silicon glue sticks
- Scissors
- Plastic bowls to carry items from the main table

Technology needed

- Devices for students to find images of people, places, and events from Israel
- Laptop, access to internet and a projector to show a clip from Piven's [TEDx video](#).
- **Faces iMake:** available for iPad (optional)



The Jewish Art Adventure: Piven-style Collage

Prepare in Advance

- Begin collecting materials for collages a few weeks in advance.
- Ask parents to help with collecting objects, setup, operating glue guns, cleanup and preparing an exhibit.
- Sort collected materials and place them in tubs.
- Arrange the tubs with materials, along with work tools, on an accessible table.

Background for Teachers

Hanoch Piven is an Israeli illustrator who is famous for his colorful and witty collages. He has created work for the daily Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz*, and for major American and European publications such as *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Rolling Stone* and *London Times*. He has even created his own app that enables users to create electronic art in his style.

Piven believes that playing opens avenues for creativity and promotes artistic accomplishment. To that end, Piven has developed workshops for all ages that promote creativity, communication and self-reflection through creating collages with common everyday objects in a playful way. He uses his workshops as art therapy, as well, helping people ranging from seriously ill hospital patients to soldiers suffering from PTSD.

To learn more about Hanoch Piven's work, visit his [website](#).

To learn more about his theories of art and play, watch his [TEDx video](#).

Description of Activities

1. Start with a face hunt!
 - Show the first three minutes of Piven's TEDx [video](#).
 - Afterwards, invite students to walk around the room looking for faces in the objects around them. Ask students to share any faces they may find.
2. Take your students on a virtual tour of the illustrations on Piven's [website](#). Ask students if they recognize any of the people represented in the portraits.
 - How did Piven use his materials in playful ways to represent the figures?
 - Together, analyze a few of Piven's posters to learn how he used the meaning embedded in found objects to comment on the subject of his work.
3. Now it's time for students to create their own images in the style of Hanoch Piven. Working individually or with a partner, students choose a subject to focus on, such as leaders in Israel's history, Israeli cities or geographic areas. Draw a general sketch of it on cardboard.



The Jewish Art Adventure: Piven-style Collage

4. Send students to collect the objects needed from the table and arrange them on the board. Make sure they fit each other and describe the idea well.
5. Use pieces of colored paper to create the backgrounds and other area.
6. When students are satisfied with their layouts, they can glue all the parts to the board. Allow a few hours to dry.

Create a class exhibition! Ask students to name their art piece with a short witty name, and compose a two-sentence description of how using the specific found objects contributes to their interpretation. Write the title of the work in large letters at the top of an index card, the description under it, and name at the bottom of the card. Arrange an exhibit of the class work and cards.

Tech Option: Students create their images by using Piven's Faces iMake app instead of using the found objects.