



Murals and Tapestries

Year 2

The children are introduced to murals, what they are and how they have been painted throughout history, by looking at cave paintings, murals in churches of the Italian renaissance, and at more modern works by *Rivera* and *Banksy*. They then study famous examples of frescoes (exploring what this term means), including *Michelangelo's* paintings in the Sistine Chapel and *Leonardo's The Last Supper*, previously looked at in relation to symmetry in the unit on *Landscapes and Symmetry*.

Two lessons in the unit are spent studying tapestries, learning what these are and how weaving is distinguished from embroidery (already touched on in the previous unit on *Anglo Saxon Art* in relation to the Bayeux Tapestry). Through study of the 15th century series of tapestries *The Lady and the Unicorn* the children learn how tapestries can tell stories and convey messages as well as being used more practically to insulate cold, draughty castles. The children then compare this with the abstract work of *Anni Albers*, who was part of the Bauhaus movement in early 20th century Germany.

Whilst studying murals and tapestries the children build a large work together, on a long piece of paper, which, although clearly not a mural as it is not painted on a wall, is in its scale something akin to a mural. They aim to make an underwater sea scene by creating fish using mono-printing techniques and seaweed made by weaving. Whilst studying *The Last Supper* they consider, in depth, the importance of composition (previously studied in the year 2 unit on *Colour, Shape and Texture*) and how different shapes, colours and lines are arranged in a work of art. They use this knowledge to consider and construct a successful composition for their sea scene.