Collage Project: Stand-Out Figure Collage

Level: All
Time: 15-60 minutes, depending on complexity
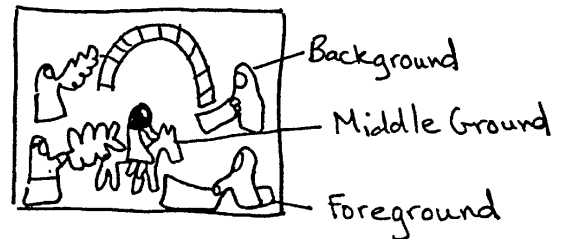
Materials Needed

> stiff paper to make figures and shapes for collage
> scissors
> lots of little cardboard squares and rectangles about 1-2" across
> white glue in a dish
> stiff background paper (such as cover stock)

Preparation

> Have stiff paper in various sizes for cutting out figures.
> Have stencils prepared (if these will be used).
> Have cardboard squares prepared. (Corrugated cardboard is best because it is thicker.)

Steps

1. Using the methods for collage, cut out and arrange collages.
2. Before pasting figures down, decide which figures are in the background, middle ground, and foreground.
   a. Glue background pieces directly onto background paper.
   b. For the middle ground, glue 1-2 pieces of soft cardboard to the back of the figure (or onto the background), then glue figure to background paper.
   c. For foreground pieces, glue 3-4 pieces of cardboard on the back of a figure, one on top of the other. Then glue to the background paper.

Variation

The background can be drawn or painted in and figures can stand out at various levels. This is a fun method for making murals.

Application Ideas

The stand-out collage gives a 3 dimensional effect to whatever story is illustrated. This method is ideal for stories where people are looking at something, such as:

> Noah and the rainbow
> Abraham at Canaan
> The spies looking at the land of Canaan
> John and his visions on the Isle of Patmos
> People fleeing from Sodom and Gomorrah
> People running as the Tower of Babel is falling down.
> The children of Israel marching around Jericho.
> Children approaching Jesus.

This technique is also good for stories where the landscape is important, such as the garden of Eden, Psalm 23, and the Lord giving the Sermon on the Mount.
It can also be used to emphasize the major people of the story.