

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

Sailor Art

Preparation

Overview and Objectives

This lesson is geared toward adults interested in learning about sailor art on *Intrepid*.

Participants will learn what sailor art is, how it is preserved and look at Sailor Art pieces that were painted aboard the USS *Intrepid*. Participants will be given the opportunity to paint their own Sailor Art to display in their homes.

This lesson includes a [slideshow](#) in which an instructor can lead participants through various examples of sailor art to interpret and analyze.

Instructional Modalities

This activity was designed for both synchronous or asynchronous instruction.

For **synchronous instruction**, we recommend a platform that allows both for whole class discussion and for students to interact in small groups.

For **asynchronous adaptations**, we provide suggestions for teachers to provide additional support for the activities and for students to share their work with each other.

Materials

- [Sailor Art Slideshow](#)
- **A piece of paper**
- **A pencil**
- **Paint**
- **Paint brushes**
- **Black sharpie**

Lesson

1. Introductory Activity

- Participants will go through slides 1-5 to answer the questions
 - **What is an aircraft carrier?**

An aircraft carrier functions as a portable, floating airport. There were many different jobs on board that made the ship function like a city at sea.
 - **What is sailor art?**

Sailor art is art painted on by sailors to decorate spaces in the ship itself. It can be found on doors, walls, and equipment. Many date from the 1970s.
 - **How can we preserve sailor art?**

In order to preserve sailor art, staff covers art to prevent guests from touching. We all have oils and salts on our fingers that can degrade and discolor paint over time. In areas where paint is peeling a diluted solution of adhesive can be added with a brush before gently pressing the paint flat.
- Ask participants to share any art they have seen on buildings, ships or trains.

2. Core Activity

- Participants will analyze some sailor art by answering the following two questions about each piece:
 - **What do you think the inspiration behind this piece was?**
 - **Where on the ship do you think this was painted?**
- After discussing answers as a group the instructor will give some further information about the Sailor Art on the second slide showing that piece.
- Here are the pieces of sailor art that will be discussed:



Intrepid has always been a busy place with coffee being a popular theme. The firerooms, where this Goofy cartoon is, were constantly working to propel Intrepid around the world.



This sailor art incorporates many elements in this multicolored psychedelic bunk painting including cartoon characters, pink lips, and rainbow ribbons.



Cartoon characters are a recurring theme in sailor art. The road runner was a popular choice since on board Intrepid everything needed to be done fast.



Nature scenes like, like this window, feature heavily in sailor art.



This painting is of the V-2 Division's duck mascot and motto. Their green jersey and helmet would have identified them as the flight deck crew that maintained and operated the catapult launching and arresting gear, a position that required you to be bold.

3. Create Your Own Sailor Art

- If you could paint anything on Intrepid what would it be? Where would you paint it?
- Go to [Google Arts and Culture](#) and take a look around. Pick a place on the ship that you would like to create a sailor art poster for.
- Start creating your own sailor art poster:
 1. Gather your supplies: piece of paper, pencil, paint, water cup, paint brushes and a black sharpie
 2. Sketch your poster. Think of ways your poster can relate or improve the space you chose on [Google Arts and Culture](#). For example a piece of Sailor Art in the bunkroom may be a calm scene to help sailors relax after work.
 3. Add paint. Sailors would have used extra paint they found laying around, sometimes limiting their color palettes. They often used bright and bold colors to make their work stand out.
 4. Outline your Sailor Art with black sharpie. This step is not necessary but it can make your painting more graphic and bold. Many sailor art pieces were inspired by cartoons which are often outlined in black.

4. Reflection

- Together as a group answer the following questions:
 1. How would the sailor art you made change the space you chose on Intrepid?
 2. What was the most interesting thing that you learned?
 3. What do you want to learn more about?

Asynchronous Adaptation

Have participants go through the [slideshow](#) on their own and create their own Sailor Art at home.

Extension Activities

To deepen participant engagement with this content, you may choose to add the following activities :

Explore More Places on *Intrepid*

Use [Google Arts and Culture](#) to explore more places on *Intrepid*. Imagine what kind of sailor art you would put in each space if you were a sailor who lived and worked on *Intrepid*.

Create Your Own Sailor Art Online

Design more sailor art online using a digital creation tool for drawing or graphic design like Google Drawings, [Canva](#), [Spark Post](#) or [Adobe Fresco](#).

Additional Resources/References

Background Information

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