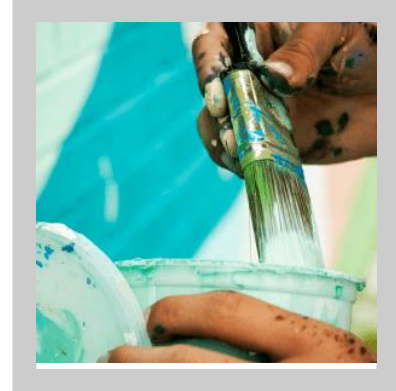


Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Mural City

Philadelphia is a city known for many things. It is where the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776, and it was also the first capital of the United States. But one fact about Philadelphia is not so well-known: it is home to nearly 3,000 murals painted on the sides of homes and buildings around the city. It is said that Philadelphia has more murals than any other city in the world, with the exception of Rome. How did this come to be?



More than 20 years ago, a New Jersey artist named Jane Golden started a program pairing troubled youth with artists to paint murals on a few buildings around the city. From this small project, something magical happened. The young people involved helped to create magnificent pieces of art, but there were other, perhaps more important, benefits. The young people learned to collaborate and get along with many different kinds of people during the various steps required to paint and design a mural. They learned to be responsible, because they needed to follow a schedule to make sure the murals were completed. They also learned to take pride in their community. It is hard for any resident to see the spectacular designs and not feel proud to be a part of Philadelphia.

Take a walk around some of the poorest neighborhoods in Philadelphia—neighborhoods full of broken windows and littered front steps—and you will find beautiful works of art on the sides and fronts of buildings. But murals are not only found in poor neighborhoods. They are found in affluent ones as well. Special buses take tourists to different parts of the city to see the various murals, which range from huge portraits of historical heroes, to cityscapes, to scenes depicting the diverse ethnic groups that call Philadelphia home.

As a result of its success, the mural program created by Jane Golden has now become the nation's largest public art program and a model for other cities throughout the country seeking to help troubled youth.

- 1) This passage focuses mostly upon
- A. an art program designed to help troubled youth
  - B. the tourists who come to Philadelphia
  - C. the many reasons why Philadelphia is a unique city
  - D. how Jane Golden came up with the idea to start a mural program

2) In paragraph 1, the author states, “It is said that Philadelphia has more murals than any other city in the world, with the exception of Rome.” Using this information, we can conclude that

- A. Rome has fewer murals than Philadelphia
- B. Philadelphia has fewer murals than Rome
- C. Rome has the most beautiful murals in the world
- D. Rome and Philadelphia are the only cities with murals in the world

3) According to the passage, the mural program helps troubled youth by teaching them

- I. to be more responsible
- II. how to collaborate with others
- III. to take pride in their community

- A. I only
- B. I and II only
- C. II and III only
- D. I, II, and III

4) As used in paragraph 3, which is the best definition for **affluent**?

- A. popular
- B. clean
- C. well-known
- D. wealthy

5) Are there any spaces in your town where you might want to paint a mural? What should be painted where? Explain.

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