

Abraham Lincoln's Birthday Mosaic

Rick Morris, NewManagement.com

The Big Picture

Students reproduce each of the 1" X 2" master tiles on 6" X 12" pieces of black construction paper using white chalk. When finished, the reproductions are assembled on a wall or bulletin board for a truly stunning piece of collaborative art. You have to see it to believe it.

Material

The tiles shown on these pages, white chalk, and black construction paper. (Helpful: manila drawing paper or newspaper on which to work.)

Time required

The artwork by the students will take approximately two hours total. The assembly you can do at lunch time or after school if you wish.



Lincoln 1



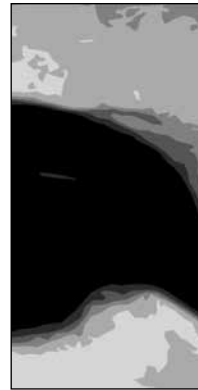
Lincoln 2



Lincoln 3



Lincoln 4



Lincoln 5



Lincoln 6



Lincoln 7



Lincoln 8



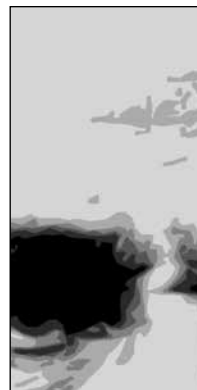
Lincoln 9



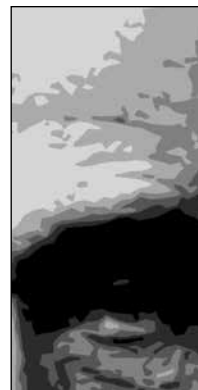
Lincoln 10



Lincoln 11



Lincoln 12



Lincoln 13



Lincoln 14



Lincoln 15



Lincoln 16



Lincoln 17



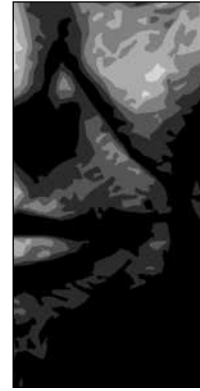
Lincoln 18



Lincoln 19



Lincoln 20



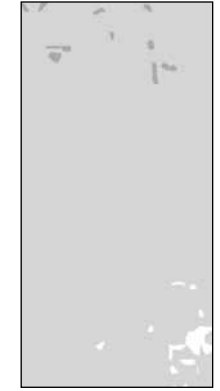
Lincoln 21



Lincoln 22



Lincoln 23



Lincoln 24



Lincoln 25



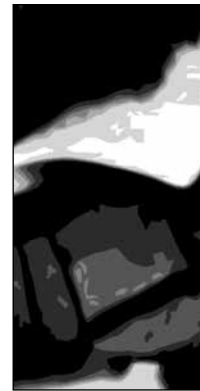
Lincoln 26



Lincoln 27



Lincoln 28



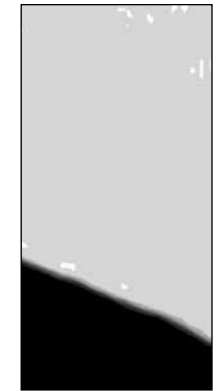
Lincoln 29



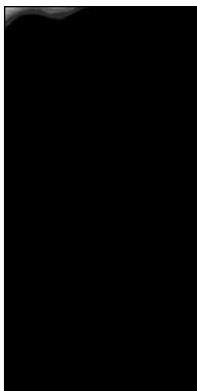
Lincoln 30



Lincoln 31



Lincoln 32



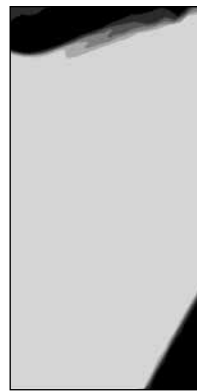
Lincoln 33



Lincoln 34



Lincoln 35



Lincoln 36



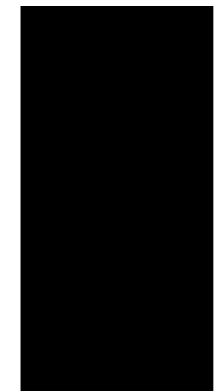
Lincoln 37



Lincoln 38



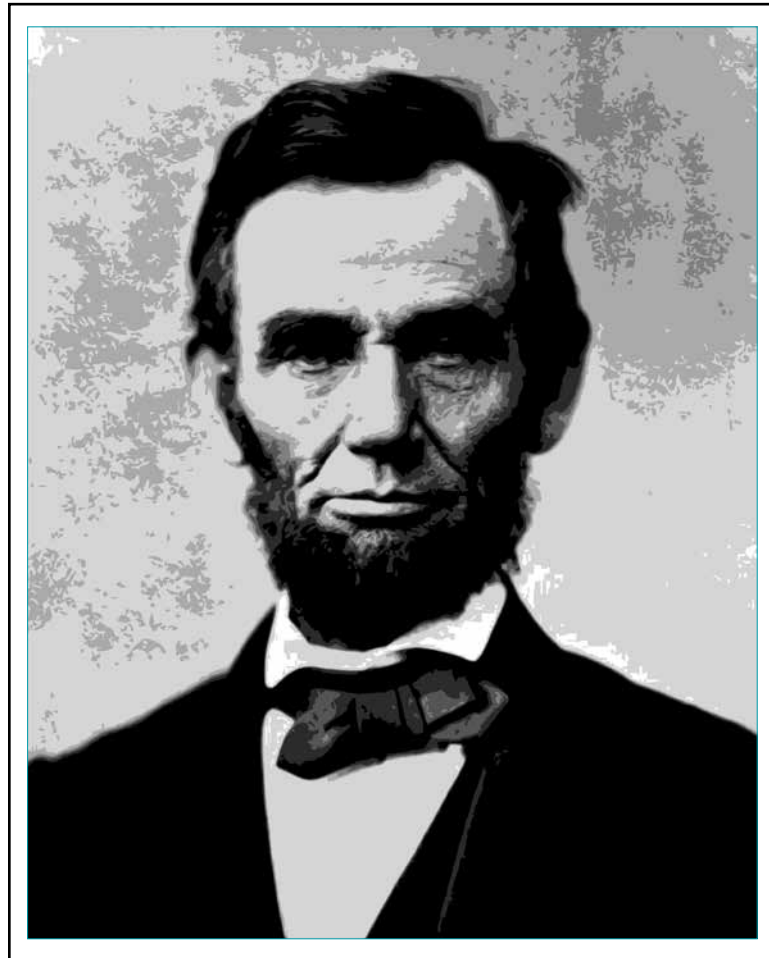
Lincoln 39



Lincoln 40

MATERIALS:

- white chalk
- black construction paper for gray scale practice
2 x 4 inch; one per student
- black construction paper for mosaic
6 x 12 inch ; 40 pieces (this size makes 48 x 60 inch finished portrait)
- or -
9 x 18 inch ; 40 pieces (this size makes 72 x 90 inch finished portrait)



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

16TH PRESIDENT

(FEBRUARY 12, 1809 - APRIL 15, 1865)

DIRECTIONS:

Gray scale practice

1. Cut apart the gray scale samples (page 4) and provide one to each student.
2. Give everyone a piece of white chalk and a 2 x 4 inch piece of black construction paper.
3. Have the students reproduce the values from white to black. (White is solid chalk and black is the actual construction paper left untouched.)

Note: Depending upon the age of your students, you might need to demonstrate how different gray values can be made using white chalk on black paper. You might also want to have extra pieces of 2 x 4 black construction for students who need more practice.

Mosaic work

1. Cut apart the master tiles and have each student select one. (The leftover tiles will be done by students who finish their first tiles.)

Note: Some tiles are easier to reproduce than others. (Tiles #33, 34, 38, 39, and 40 don't even require any chalk work.) You might want to mention this before having them select their first tile.

2. Have them write the tile number on the back of the construction paper with chalk.

Tip: The chalk numbers will be used to position all 40 pieces for assembly. Having them write the number at the top of the sheet will make it easier for you to orient each piece properly.

3. Using the tile as a guide, the student recreates the image on the black construction paper.

Note: Attention to proportion is the key. Maintaining the placement and scale of the elements on the small tile so that they end up being proportional on the large construction paper will help ensure proper alignment of adjacent elements. On the other hand, part of the beauty of the finished portrait is that there isn't always a smooth flow from one edge to its neighbor. It is, after all, a work of art.

4. When a mosaic piece is finished, the student gives it to the teacher. He writes his name on the finished master tile and returns that, also. (Having a record of who did which piece might prove helpful later on.) If there are more master tiles needing attention, the student can choose another one and repeat the process.

Portrait assembly

1. In a large, open area, lay the top row of mosaic pieces (#1 through 8) side-by-side. Using masking tape on the back side of the mosaic, tape adjacent pieces together. Keep adding rows until the entire portrait is assembled.
2. Find a prominent place to display your work. The walls along the hallway or inside the cafeteria, your school library, or the office make great sites.
3. Stand back and enjoy the view. (Email me a photo, and I'll put it on the website.)

Extension

Lincoln is just one possibility for this type of treatment. Years ago, we did one for our superintendent who was going to be leaving at the end of that school year. Of the hundreds of letters, notes, and drawings posted in the Education Center, our mosaic portrait was hung right next to his office door. Sweet.



gray scale



gray scale



gray scale



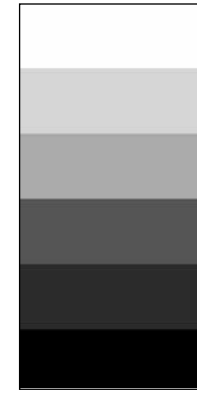
gray scale



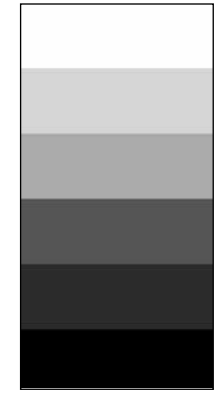
gray scale



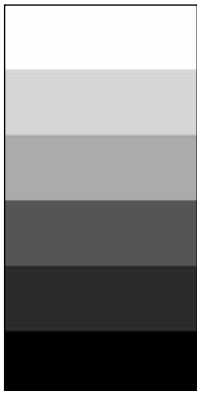
gray scale



gray scale



gray scale



gray scale



gray scale



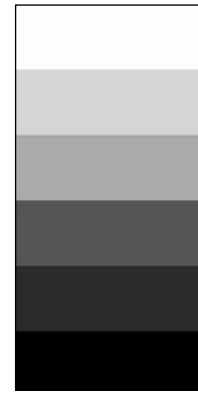
gray scale



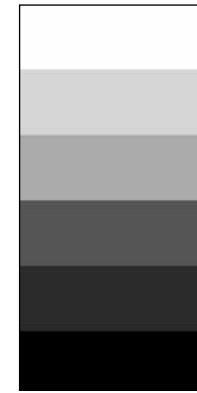
gray scale



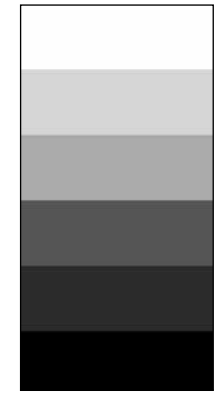
gray scale



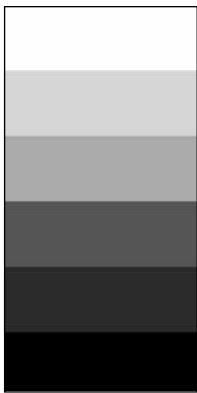
gray scale



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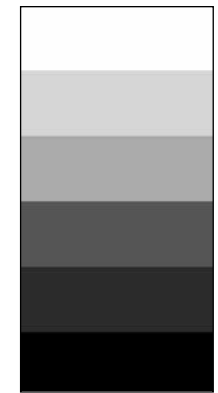
gray scale



gray scale



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