



MAKING A METAL VULCAN

This activity introduces students to the artistic choices Giuseppe Moretti faced when sculpting Vulcan. Moretti created one of the most famous artistic representations of Vulcan. Other artists besides Moretti have been fascinated with Vulcan and his Greek counterpart Hephaestus.

Activity

For this activity, students interpret Vulcan through a simple collage technique. Students create an image of Vulcan by arranging miscellaneous metal pieces on a sheet of cardboard. Metal pieces can include gem clips, various sizes of nails and washers, wire cut in different lengths, and any scraps of metal that the teacher might have in the room. Once students are satisfied with their metal Vulcan, they glue the pieces to the cardboard.

What You'll Need...

Miscellaneous metal pieces
Elmer's glue
Cardboard or gator board

Online Resources

This links to a stone statue of Hephaestus in a very simple Classical style:

<http://www.pantheon.org/areas/gallery/mythology/europe/roman/vulcan.html>

In addition to capturing Vulcan's physical characteristics, students should be encouraged to capture his personality. Students might find it helpful to study other artists' view of Vulcan and Hephaestus.

Online Resources

Below is an annotated list of links to paintings and sculptures featuring Vulcan and/or his Greek counterpart.

This link contains several images of both Hephaestus and Vulcan:

<http://homepage.mac.com/cparada/GML/Hephaestus.html>

Among the most famous paintings of Vulcan is Vulcan's Forge by Velazquez:

<http://www.artchive.com/artchive/V/velazquez/vulcan.jpg.html>