

Diego Rivera

School Name _____

Student Name _____

Teacher Name _____

Date ____/____/20____

Per. ____

Fill in the blanks with the following words:

70

Mexico

public

Madrid

Muralism

United States

Diego María de la Concepción Juan Nepomuceno Estanislao de la Rivera y Barrientos Acosta y Rodríguez was born on December 8, 1886, in the city of Guanajuato, _____. From an early age, Diego Rivera displayed an exceptional talent for drawing, covering the walls of his family home with sketches that ranged from trains to human figures. Recognizing his artistic gifts, his parents enrolled him in evening art classes at the age of ten. His father, despite initial reservations about art as a career, eventually supported his son's artistic ambitions. Rivera's childhood was marked by the political turbulence of Mexico during the late 19th century. The country was undergoing significant social and economic changes under the dictatorship of Porfirio Díaz, experiences that would later profoundly influence his artistic vision and political consciousness.



Figure 1: Rivera Mural in San Francisco, CA

His family's middle-class status provided him with educational opportunities that many of his contemporaries lacked, setting the stage for his future artistic development. After having studied at Academy of San Carlos in Mexico City, at the age of 21, in 1907, Rivera received a scholarship from the governor of Veracruz to study art in Europe, marking the beginning of a transformative fourteen-year period that would fundamentally shape his artistic vision. He initially settled in _____, Spain, where he studied under Eduardo Chicharro and immersed himself in the works of Spanish masters like Velázquez, Goya, and El Greco at the Prado Museum, in Madrid.

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Rivera's European sojourn introduced him to various artistic movements and geographic locations beyond Spain. In 1909 he moved to Paris, France, the City of Light where an unprecedented explosion of artistic innovation, where movements like Fauvism, Cubism, and Expressionism challenged traditional artistic conventions.

Rivera's return to Mexico in 1921 coincided with a cultural renaissance following the Mexican Revolution. The Minister of Education José Vasconcelos, sought to create a national cultural identity that would unite the country's diverse population. Vasconcelos commissioned Rivera and other artists to create murals in public buildings, launching what would become known as the Mexican _____ movement.

Rivera's first major mural project was "Creation" (1922-1923) at the National Preparatory School in Mexico City. This work marked his transition from easel painting to monumental _____ art, though it still showed strong European influences in its allegorical approach and classical figures. However, Rivera quickly evolved toward a more distinctly Mexican style and subject matter.

Rivera joined the Mexican Communist Party in 1922 and remained committed to Marxist ideology throughout his life, though his relationship with the party was often turbulent. One of the most fascinating and controversial aspects of Rivera's career was his ability to secure major commissions from wealthy capitalist patrons while maintaining his communist beliefs and creating art that often criticized the very system that funded it. This apparent contradiction created numerous conflicts and scandals throughout his career but also enabled him to reach audiences far beyond the traditional art world.



By the 1930s and 1940s, Rivera had achieved international recognition as one of the world's leading artists. His murals had been featured in major museums and public buildings across Mexico and the _____, and his work was being collected by major museums worldwide. Rivera's final years were marked by both declining health and a renewed sense of purpose in his art. He continued to work on major projects that reflected his lifelong commitment to social justice and his evolving vision of Mexico's place in the world. Diego Rivera's

life and work represent a unique synthesis of artistic excellence, political commitment, and cultural nationalism. Rivera died on November 24, 1957, at the age of _____.