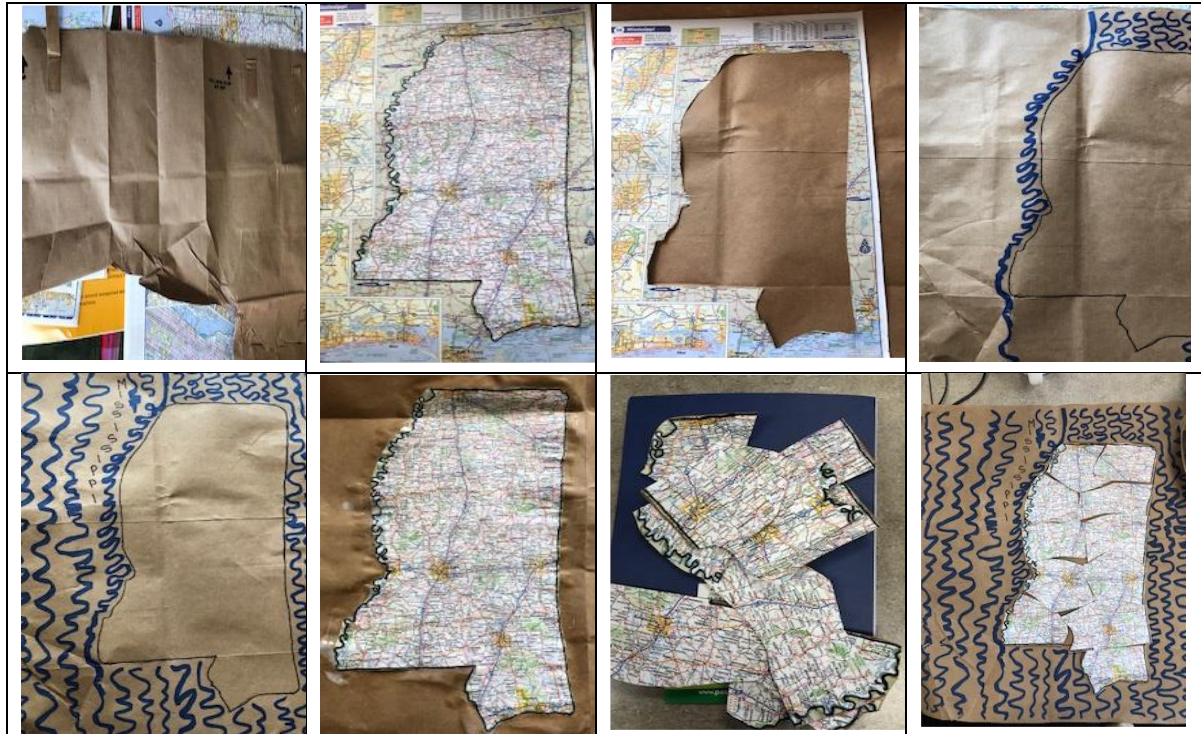


This is Ms. Susan from the Shorewood Public Library. This week we will study geography by creating art from a United States atlas map. We will be using the negative space theory. There's never a positive without a negative, and the same can be said in art. Positive space and negative space work together to achieve balance in a piece of art. Without them, a work might overwhelm the eye, just like a map with all the lines running through it. When you highlight the empty space, you can really look at the shape of the state. The art can be outside the border, using creative ideas from what the state offers the artist. This project gives us the opportunity to focus on the positives of a state, not negatives.



1- Cut a paper grocery bag open, so it lays flat. Outline the state you have chosen on the map with a marker. For younger artist, as close to the border as able, is fine. Cut out the state along the line you have drawn, keeping the background intact. The you can either use the cut-out or the background to trace the state on to the paper bag. You might want to use a pencil first, if you need to change some lines. This is good practice for younger artists. On the bag, you will have the outline and you will decorate outside of the state borders. Look at the map, what are the special features of the state? Are there mountains, rivers, cities, or railroads running through? Use this information to create a design outside the borders of the state. Mississippi has the Mississippi River running down the left border. So, my design was the shape of blue waters of a river. Add the name of your state in the design you have made.

2- You can glue the shape of the state to the unused part of the paper bag. Cut the state out and then into pieces. Now you will have a puzzle to give you hours of fun. You can see where different cities are located or how far it is from one side of the state to the other. Keep the pieces in an envelope, so you don't lose any pieces. There are many websites with state attractions or stop in the library to pick up a book of state information.

Enjoy a positive week and happy travels!

Ms. Susan