Big Banner Mural
Materials you will need:

- two sheets of 3'x3' banner paper
- tempera paint
- newspaper to protect the floor
- sticks (small diameter, 5-10'' long)
- yarn, twine, or string to attach hair to sticks
- cloth or rag
- containers to hold paint
- masking tape
- camera (optional)
- writing utensils, paper
Paint and Restore a Mural: Step 1

In this project you will have two jobs. First, you need to be an artist. You will be making your own mural off-line using the information you get from this site. You will also need another person or group of people to be the conservation team. This works best if everyone begins as the mural artists. Then everyone will exchange murals and become conservators. This way everyone gets the chance to be both a mural artist and a conservator.

*Note: Please do not look at your neighbors’ murals (or the person whose mural you will later conserve) while they are creating it. This project will not work if you see the murals while they are being made.

Getting Started
The people of Çatalhöyük used painting tools from materials that could be found in their natural environment. Common materials probably included sticks or reeds for paint brush handles or hair from *boars* for bristles. People also used small rags dipped in the paint to smear large areas of the mural with paint.

Make Your Own Çatalhöyük Brushes:

1. Find some hair, either from an animal or fake hair. Find sticks, twigs, or reeds that will work as a paint brush handle.
   *Remember that detailed painting requires small brushes. You may want to make a variety of sizes.
2. Attach some hair to the end of a stick. Wrap the twine or string around the hair to hold it in place.

3. Use pieces of cloth or rags as brushes. Dip the rags into containers of paint. This works well for covering large areas with color.

4. Set up mural space. Using masking tape, put the large banner paper on the wall. Be careful. Do not get any paint on the wall. If this is a concern, tape newspapers around the edges between the banner paper and the wall. Keep in mind that tempera paint will run. Be cautious and do not apply too much paint at one time. If this is a concern, this project can also be done with the banner paper on the floor. The people of Çatalhöyük, however, painted directly on the walls rather than installing the finished murals to the wall.

What to Paint
People at Çatalhöyük used to paint several types of scenes. These included: animals, hunters, geometric patterns and landscapes. Murals were often done in similar styles. Favorite colors of Çatalhöyük artists were red, black, and white. Small, dancer-like figures around large animals seem to be a popular scene. Some figures appear to be carrying weapons.

Instructions
Choose a Subject:
Think of a special time, event, person, or story that you would like to commemorate. Using what you know about the Çatalhöyük style, design your mural. When you are ready, begin painting.
After Painting
What to Write

After you have completed your mural, write an explanation of what your mural is about in order to help the future archaeologist 9,000 years from now. Answer questions such as: what does the mural mean to you, why did you choose the scene that you did, why did you paint it like that, and how does your picture relate to your life?

Be the Interpreter

Now you get to be the archaeologist and restore the mural. Using your pens and markers, draw on the second sheet of banner paper and draw extensions of the images that you see. Fill in the blanks so to speak. Be careful. Do not mark any of the original mural.

Archaeologists must also document their work. Once you have finished your restoration, write a description of what you found. Include information about what you think that mural means, and what the mural might say about the person who painted it.

Optional, take a photograph of the restored mural to compare to the original.
Time for Conservation
What to Write

After you have found your conservator, try to find a different mural for you to conserve.

Archaeologists who restore murals use many tools such as _________________.

For this project your conservator will use markers, pens, or colored pencils.

Aging you Mural

What happens to murals over time? Moisture, erosion, and air cause murals to flake off, making it difficult to see the big picture.

To simulate this aging process, cover your mural (after it has dried) with another piece of banner paper.

Carefully rip holes in the second layer. Rip enough holes to allow only certain areas of the mural underneath to be seen. Do not rip too many holes. You want to give the conservators some information, but you do not want it to be too easy for them to understand. Once you have finished "aging" your mural, find a conservator, or somebody who has not seen the mural yet.
One of the most amazing finds at Çatalhöyük are the layers and layers of murals painted on the inside plaster walls of buildings.
ACTIVITIES TO TRY

POSTCARD MURALS

Use a sheet of paper, glue, colored pencils, and a postcard you can recycle to reconstruct a mural.

Make your own brushes and use banner paper to express yourself by painting a big mural.

In this classroom activity, first create an image from an event in your life, then see if others can correctly interpret it.
James Mellaart saw a volcano when he excavated this mural in the 1960s:

"A clearer picture of a volcano in eruption could hardly have been painted: the fire coming out of the top, lava streams from vents at its base, clouds of smoke and glowing ash hanging over its peak . . ." James Mellaart
Project Director (1960’s)
Tristan Carter, a chipped stone tool specialist working at Çatalhöyük today, sees leopard skin:

"I'm not sure; in some ways it looks quite a lot like the leopard skins that were painted elsewhere."

-Dr. Tristan "Stringy" Carter

Each mural at Çatalhöyük presents this sort of mystery.