

## Begin a Series of World Adventures with “The Mural Man” Artist Phillip Martin

Artist, adventurer and author Phillip Martin invites you to travel off the beaten path and discover the world as he sees it. “I wander back streets. I visit every marketplace I see. I greet strangers and taste a good deal of mystery food. Whenever I go anywhere, I try to make local connections.”

The first in the series is *The Mural Man – Mural #14*. Every Mural Man eBook is written to provide teachers with insights into social studies and cultural specific information about each location including folk tales; imagery of local birds and animals; amazing activities to expand the mind or stimulate conversations; an assortment of flavorful recipes from each community as well as his personal adventures as an artist and explorer along the way. “If you are brave enough to step out of your comfort zone -- just a little -- you may also have similar experiences the next time you travel.”

Phillip’s stories and adventures are designed to encourage teachers and students to talk about the world and the communities, food and customs within the world. “I realized it is very possible to travel to a country and not meet one person who lives there. That all changed with my murals. They have opened doors that get me into homes and the lives of local people with experiences that no tourist ever enjoys.”

Phillip Martin's 41 murals have taken him around the world to 4 continents and 19 countries (so far). His bags are always packed and he’s ready to paint another mural, just ask!

*The Mural Man – Mural #14*, is published by Visual Imagry, Inc. is a Safe to Learn Community project and is available exclusively online at [www.safetolearn.com](http://www.safetolearn.com)  
Link to the Store [http://www.safetolearn.com/store/c1/Featured\\_Products.html](http://www.safetolearn.com/store/c1/Featured_Products.html)



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PRESS RELEASE - July, 2015

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## Phillip Martin Talks About Mural #14 “Don’t Let Drugs Take You for a Ride”

Khulisa is an organization in Johannesburg, South Africa that works with young criminal offenders, drug awareness, and a host of other problems faced by people growing up in the townships. So, it comes as no surprise that this mural was unlike any other I'd worked with. It was an anti-drug mural painted on the side of a housing flat at a street corner in a township where drug addicts hung out. The drawing showed a South African taxi bus with the message, "Don't let drugs take you for a ride!"

From start to finish, it takes about a week to complete a mural this size. It may look simple, but it usually takes an entire day to brainstorm with people and then come up with a finished design.

No, it wasn't hard to find volunteers. The mural was about 5 yards by 2 yards so I needed a ladder to reach the higher sections. But, I didn't have a ladder. So, we used giant trash cans instead, risking life and limb for art's sake. For this particular mural, about 35 people joined in. The people in the community were thrilled with the project and message. And, I was the only one to fall from a trash can.



Photo & Mural Design by Phillip Martin © The Mural Man Series, Mural #14



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## Q &A with Phillip Martin

**1. Why did you decide to write “The Mural Man” eBook series for teachers?**

For many years I traveled and saw the sights you're supposed to see. But, I realized it is very possible to travel to a country and not meet one person who lives there. That all changed with my murals. They have opened doors that get me into homes and the lives of local people with experiences that no tourist ever enjoys. It's been such a remarkable journey that the stories just had to be told.

**2. How did you come up with the title?**

I've learned that I can get really good advice from the people I encounter along the way. I wish the murals were my own idea, but they came by way of an email from Africa. Another friend offered advice as well as the title, and I decided to listen to that wisdom as well.

**3. What do you hope the readers will discover from reading Vol. 1 about Mural #14 (Don't Lets Drugs Take you for a Ride)?**

I go off the beaten path. I wander back streets. I visit every marketplace I see. I greet strangers and taste a good deal of mystery food. Whenever I go anywhere, I try to make local connections. If you are brave enough to step out of your comfort zone -- just a little -- you may also have similar experiences the next time you travel.

**4. Is there anything you would like to share with our readers?**

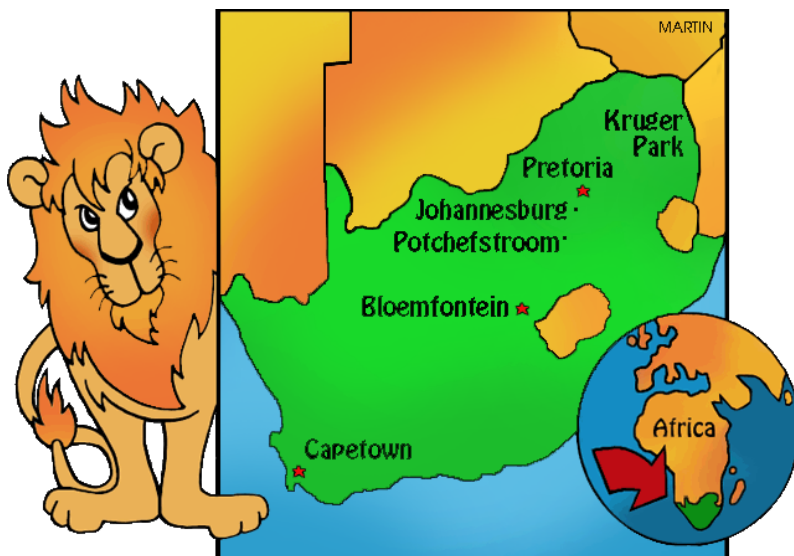
My philosophy is to say "yes" as often as possible when an opportunity comes my way. It's taken me around the world to corners of the globe that I never expected. And, it continues. Whatever your passion, follow it. Say "yes" as much as you can, and see what doors may open up for you.



## A little about painting Mural #14



"After the second day of painting, one woman who lived in the flat approached me. She said on Day One of the mural, she was so surprised when she came home from work. Day Two was even more amazing. She wanted me to know just how important it was to these children and the community that this mural went up. Drugs were just one of the issues that faced the youth of Westbury every day of their lives. She told me that the message on the mural and the community activity behind it would be long remembered."~ Phillip Martin



Also included in Phillip's book are Activities such as

### Social Studies

Inspired by Nelson Mandela, who has inspired most of the world, links to Famous People Lessons.com has a variety of reading activities. They help to introduce one of South Africa's most famous people to young readers.





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## Phillip Martin – Artist, Muralist, Teacher & Author

Muralist for [deserving walls](#) around the world. The walls range from schools to a burn center, orphanages to community centers, in Albania, Belgium, Belize, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador & the Galapagos Islands, Estonia, France, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Namibia, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Romania, South Africa, Swaziland and the United States. Feel free to contact me if you would like to commission a project.

### Self-Employed - Ohio, United States

Illustrator for [phillipmartin.com](#) clip art site for teachers and educational resource [Pete's PowerPoint Station](#).

- One of over twenty Columbus cartoonists featured in the Cartoon Carnival, a tribute to [James Thurber](#), sponsored by the Thurber House Museum and Wild Goose gallery.
- Google featured success story in an [AdSense video](#) as well as Google success story for Ohio in their 2013 [Economic Impact Report](#).
- Check out [Hall of Fame](#) to see what's been going on from Paris to the Galapagos Islands and Stratford on Avon to Papua New Guinea
- [Microsoft featured teacher of the month](#) at Encarta Schoolhouse for GRAND PRIZE winning lessons and web sites on both [Hammurabi](#) and [Liberian Folk Tales](#) including [Black Snake and the Eggs](#), [Spider and the Honey Tree](#) and [The Chief Was No Fool](#).
- [CERCOS Presenter](#) on subjects ranging from Ancient China to the use of Folk Tales in the classroom in Hong Kong, Beijing and Shanghai.  
The presentations include my original lesson for "[Oracle Eggs](#)" instead of using bones.
- [Beyond War Award](#) for Peace Corps service
- Who's Who Among American Universities and Colleges  
[http://www.phillipmartin.info/webpage/RESUME/text\\_resume.htm](http://www.phillipmartin.info/webpage/RESUME/text_resume.htm)

Read more about Phillip Martin <http://www.safetolearn.com/artist-phillip-martin.html>



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