This Place is Crazy!

Book Connection

Landscape art comes in as many different mediums, subjects, and styles as there are places in the world. Artists have always been inspired by the world and scenes around them. Landscapes by Valerie Bodden, is a great resource in the study of landscape art. This book gives a detailed, yet brief history of the various periods in landscape art, while showcasing influential landscape artworks along the way.

Where in the World? by Bob Raczka is another fun resource that takes the reader around the world through various international artworks. The journey begins in Edo, Japan with an interesting view of Mount Fuji by Hokusai and ends in front of Venice’s Ducal Palace in an artwork by Canaletto. This unique take on landscape art showcases the beauty of the world through the lens of famous artists.

Inspired Activity

The art activity for this month is an open-ended review of the elements of landscape art and an introduction of juxtaposition in art. To begin, introduce various landscape artists and artworks; as well as related vocabulary words such as: horizon line, focal point, depth (determining foreground and background), atmospheric perspective, etc. These vocabulary words can be added upon and discussed as much as the teacher feels applicable. This will be a painting project, but any medium can be used. Materials needed are: thick watercolor paper (recommended – taped onto a board to prevent warping), watercolor paint, paintbrushes, pencils, rulers, permanent markers, and photos of various landscapes (optional).

1. Students will first begin by listing 3 different types of landscapes and characteristics of each. For example: beach – sand, palm trees, sunny, ocean, etc. They will then choose one of these landscapes and draw a quick thumbnail sketch of their composition. They should keep in mind the vocabulary words that they learned. After they have their scene sketched out, they should make a
brainstorm list of 3 different ways to bring juxtaposition (or contrast) to their sketch. For example, they could include a spaceship flying in the mountains or a building or dinosaur coming out of the middle of the ocean, etc. They should choose one and include it in their quick thumbnail sketch. This new aspect will most likely become their focal point. After their sketch is finished, they should be able to point out their horizon line, focal point, and the way they illustrated depth; atmospheric perspective should come when they’re painting. (See attached worksheet.)

2. The next step is transferring the ideas from their sketch to their final paper. This should be done in pencil. They may need to be reminded that they’re going to paint over it, so they might want to draw lightly.

3. Once they’re finished with their sketch on their final paper, they should begin painting. Paper should be pre-taped to boards to prevent warping while painting. It may be good to review watercolor techniques depending on how much experience the students have. They should be reminded of the differences of painting wet-on-wet and wet-on-dry; just in case they would like to create more precise details in their landscape.

4. After the paintings are done and totally dry, the last step is to use the permanent markers to reestablish detail in their painting. This can be optional depending on student and teacher preference.

5. There are so many short writing prompts that could be written about the narrative happening in their artwork. A simple “What is happening in your painting?” could be an interesting story. These paintings along with these written responses would be a fun exhibition and a great way to integrate writing and art.

**Related Artists**

Claude Monet  
Paul Cézanne  
J.M.W. Turner  
Georgia O’Keeffe  
Ansel Adams  
Katsushika Hokusai  
Salvador Dalí  
Heather Galler  
Kate Shaw  
Tara Donovan  
Victoria Siemer  
Alison Moritsugu

**AR Visual Art Standards K-8**

Creating – Content Standards 1-3  
Presenting – Content Standard 6  
Connecting – Content Standards 10-11
Additional Library Resources

Print

*Cezanne and the Apple Boy* by Laurence Anholt [PIC Anholt Laurence]

*Georgia in Hawaii* by Amy Novesky [PIC Novesky Amy]

*Georgia Rises* by Kathryn Lasky [PIC Lasky Kathryn]

*The Land of Lines* by Victor Hussenot [PIC Hussenot Victor]

*Joseph Turner* by Jayne Woodhouse [ENF 92 TUR]

*Where in the World?* by Bob Raczka [ENF 709 RAC]

*Monet* by Jude Welton [JNF 759.4 WEL]

*Landscapes* by Valerie Bodden [JNF 758.1 BOD]

*Linnea in Monet’s Garden* by Christina Bjork [JNF 759.4 BJO]

*Georgia O’Keeffe* by Mike Venezia [JNF 92 O Keeffe Georgia]

E-Learning on our website’s Student Portal

(K-4) eLibrary Elementary (Proquest) –


(K-4) World Book Online for Kids -


(5-6) World Book Student -


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3 Different Kinds of Landscapes:

1: ____________________________________________

2: ____________________________________________

3: ____________________________________________

Now choose one and draw a quick sketch of your landscape. Be sure to include a horizon line, focal point, and show how things look when they’re close and when they’re far (depth).

Make it Crazy!
List 3 things that don’t belong in your landscape.
1: ____________________________

2: ____________________________

3: ____________________________

Now choose one and draw it in your sketch!

Review – use your sketch to answer these questions:

Is there a horizon line?

What is your focal point?

Did you show depth? How did you make something look close? How did you make something look far away?