

Image Credit: Educator Photo

One-Point Perspective Landscapes Inspired by John Cole

A HANDS-ON ART ACTIVITY
DESIGNED BY ROSA MATSON

Description

This activity will allow students to build on their knowledge of the landscapes around them and translate them into art. Building off the work of John Cole, students will create their own landscape collages, inspired by Northwest geography. This activity is split into two parts: Part 1 will familiarize students with one-point perspective, and Part 2 will introduce students to John Cole, his work, their own local landscapes, and allow them to create their own works of art.

Materials

- [Video tutorial on one-point perspective](#)
- Canvas panels
- Elmers glue
- Tissue paper
- Construction paper (variety of colors)
- Glue brushes
- Pencils
- Colored pencils
- Black markers
- Rulers
- *Eagle's Walk* by John Cole (included at the end of this lesson)

Instructions

Part 1: Introduction (30 minutes)

- 1) Introduce students to landscape painting by showing them this video on one-point perspective.
- 2) Pass out the materials mentioned in the video and allow students to make their own one-point perspective drawings.
 - Emphasize to students that they do not need to copy the drawing from the video; they just need to use the technique to create their own landscape drawing.

Part 2: Main Activity (90 minutes)

- 1) Begin the activity by reminding students of what they did in Part 1 (learning about one-point perspective).
- 2) Introduce students to the work of John Cole that is included at the end of this lesson and use VTS to discuss the painting.
 - VTS is an inquiry-based method of facilitating discussion. Tips and resources on VTS are included at the end of this lesson.
 - Have students identify the horizon line and vanishing point in the natural landscapes.
- 4) Pass out materials and instruct students to sketch a landscape on their canvas.
 - Draw the horizon line first and then plot a vanishing point. Next draw in a river or ocean inlet that starts wide then narrows into the vanishing point.
- 5) Then students will add river banks, fields, trees, mountains above the horizon line, clouds, sky, and any details they want to add to their landscape.
- 6) After sketching their landscapes, students can then tear tissue paper and glue it to the landscape to add color.
 - Remind students to tear paper in strips to better fit small areas. Also recommend they do lots of layering so all white spaces are covered.
- 7) Once students have finished their landscapes, provide them with time to share their works with the class and talk about their design choices. You might ask:
 - Why did you choose this landscape? Were there any parts of this project that were difficult? Is there any way you could improve on this next time?

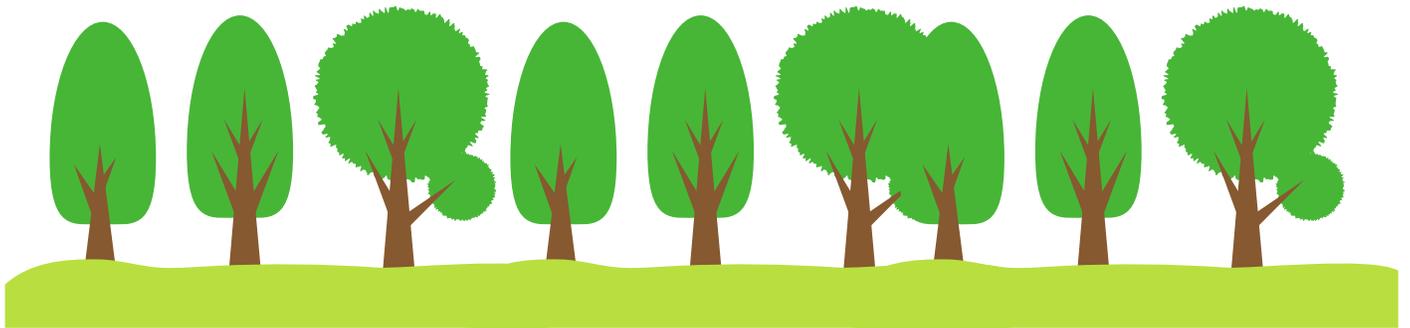
Further Exploration: Since Time Immemorial

To take this lesson further, we recommend taking a look at the Since Time Immemorial (STI) standards on "Stories and Histories of Our Place". These educational standards place emphasis on tribal stories being integrated in K-12 education in the state of Washington. The "Stories and Histories of Our Place" curriculum will give students opportunities to learn about the oral traditions that have been passed down for hundreds of years in tribes all over the state. These stories will help to teach students about plants, animals, and the geography of Washington State. The "Stories and Histories of Our Place" curriculum can be found [here](#), and more information about STI can be found [here](#).



Vocabulary

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| ✓ Collage | ✓ Land | ✓ Middle ground |
| ✓ Horizon line | ✓ Water | ✓ Foreground |
| ✓ Vanishing point | ✓ Mountain | ✓ Lines |
| ✓ Perspective | ✓ Sky | ✓ Form |
| ✓ Scenery | ✓ 3-D | |
| ✓ Landscape | ✓ Background | |



Learning and State Standards

Fulfills [Washington State Arts Learning Standards](#):

- **VA:Cr2.3.3** (Individually or collaboratively construct representations, diagrams, or maps of places that are part of everyday life)
- **VA:Cr2.2.3** (Demonstrate an understanding of the safe and proficient use of materials, tools, and equipment for a variety of artistic processes)
- **VA:Cn10.1.3** (Develop a work of art based on observations of surroundings)

About the Artist: John Cole

John Cole (1937-2007) was a British-born artist that made his home in Bellingham, Washington. Cole is recognized as one of the most famous landscape painters in the Pacific Northwest. Cole used his European art background combined with the modernist American style of the time to create his abstract style that is seen in his landscape art.



Yakima Reflections, John Cole
Image Source: Harris Harvey Gallery



Eagle Lake, John Cole
Image Source: Harris Harvey Gallery

Visual Thinking Strategies

MoNA's Education programs utilize Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS), which is a research-based teaching method that promotes aesthetic development including critical thinking and communication skills. Here in the MoNA, we use VTS to engage students and general visitors with art encouraging them to observe closely, think critically and discuss respectfully; however, VTS can be effectively used across curricula. This approach teaches its participants how to take the time to observe closely, describe what they see in detail and provide evidence for their observations. Students learn that their reflections and thoughts are valued and appreciated in this inclusive teaching method.

In order to facilitate a VTS discussion, you first encourage viewers to take a quiet moment to observe the work you are going to explore. Then you ask the following questions and paraphrase the responses without adding any of your own judgements. You can insert additional vocabulary and point to specific parts of the artwork.

What's going on in this picture?

What do you see that makes you say...?

What more can you find?

Visual Thinking Strategy Links

If you are interested in learning more about VTS, [here is their website](#). If you already know and love VTS, but want help finding great images to use in your classroom, here is a [fantastic gallery](#). You can also visit this website for additional resources: www.monamuseum.org/resources-for-educators



Eagle's Walk, John Cole
Image Source: Museum of Northwest Art