

Painting a Prairie Landscape

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Grade: 5 and 6 (Division 2)

Lesson Topic: Painting a Prairie Landscape

Alberta Art Education Curriculum Component: Depiction

Alberta Art Education Curriculum Topic: Reflection: Students will study and analyze the individual character of natural forms.

Alberta Art Education Specific Concept (learning outcome): Learn to depict environments and places

Landscape drawing/painting is the depiction of any view or scene you find outside. It can be a prairie view, a village, the mountains, a pine tree forest, the desert, sunflowers fields, a seascape or a road in the country. The topics are endless!

All landscape art has some feeling of distance and space. The landscape may depict animals, people, plants, pollution, destruction or any natural or man-made forms.

Also, landscape images can be portrayed in varying degrees of realism.
(Depiction, Component 4, Concept C)

Things to consider and discuss with students using:

1. Don Shean : Sturgeon Valley [1982.056.001](#)
2. Arman Earl : Prairie Impression [1984.124.001](#)
 - Point of view - far away, close-up, from above/below, a vantage point
 - Time of year/season
 - Time of day
 - Illusion of space - distance techniques: overlapping, diminishing size, perspective (plants, fields, buildings, organic textures)
 - Line of horizon - where the sky meets the earth
 - Vanishing point
 - Colour variation to show distance.
 - Foreground, middle-ground, back-ground

A Prairie landscape is depicted in both artworks before you. How are these art works alike? How are they different?

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Teacher preparation - Resources/Materials needed

- Select Alberta e Museum visuals <http://alberta.emuseum.com>
- Tempera disk tray paints

- Brushes, size 6-8
- Water containers
- School quality watercolour paper or heavy blank construction paper 12x18"

Motivation

Our Alberta Prairie is vast and many artists depict the open space in different ways. If you look at the two artist depictions, one is closer-up and one is further away showing in the distance some small buildings. How will you create the feeling of space in your painting?

Lesson Procedure: What and How

Instructional Strategies:

Teacher reviews loading a brush, brush techniques, water usage, mixing colours.

Step 1. An important, careful decision is your line of horizon - where does the sky meet the earth. This can be your first decision.

Step 2. What time of year or season - that will depend on the colours you will choose. A winter Prairie will look very different than a colourful fall depiction.

Step 3. Carefully begin to paint your Alberta prairie scene - do not rush, rushing has never been an asset when creating a painted composition

Step 4. If you have **small details** allow the background colours to dry first, and then apply these onto the dry paint with a small brush.

Lesson Closure:

1. Students add signature to painting with a pencil, over painted area - right bottom
2. Allow 10 minutes for clean-up - collect brushes - empty water containers.
3. Clean Tempera disk trays - for next class.
4. Leave paintings on tables to dry.

Student assessment: Create a Rubric

Teaching Notes:

Line tables with newspaper for easier clean-up