



Robert West Heritage House and Group of Seven Lessons Primary Grades: Nature / Landscape Art

Lesson C - Foreground And Background

Focus: Introduce or Review of **Foreground / Background, Horizon Line**

Purpose: Use pictures of **Group of Seven** as **Mentor paintings**

Materials:

- Copy of some Group of Seven art from various seasons (see **Item C1**)
- Paper
- Green construction paper and 3 triangle tracers (small, medium, large) or students cut their own triangles in 3 sizes. For young students, have pre cut triangles from the green construction paper: a few large, some medium sized and more small triangles.
- Pencil
- Glue
- Reflection (see **Item C2**)

Before (Minds On):

Teacher Talk: Looking at the Group of Seven art (**Item C1**), note how the trees that are close are big while things that are far away seem much smaller. Artists use size to let us see things that are close to the front of the picture (the foreground features are big). Also, items that are far away are drawn much smaller (in the background). Also notice that the horizon line (where the land and the sky meet) is not straight. The picture of the sunset has much more sky than the other two pictures.

During (Action):

Each student has a large piece of paper in the landscape position. Near the top of the page, with a pencil **lightly** draw 3 spaced horizontal lines across the page. Do not use a ruler and leave space between each line. The lines do not need to be straight. They can have some curves. The small section on top will be the sky and the lines underneath will be the ground. Think about if it is the middle of the day and you want the sky to be blue or is it turning into night and you want the sky to be grey. Colour in the sky the way you want.. The bottom of the page will be the ground so colour those sections however you want (greens, browns, greys, etc.). Think about the colours you see in nature. Do not add any details yet.

Now you are going to add triangles. Think of the triangles as trees. Cut one large triangle so that it looks like the shape of an evergreen. Place it in the section below the bottom line, Glue it onto the page, below the bottom line, not far from the bottom of the page. Next, cut out 3 - 5 medium sized triangles and glue them between the bottom line and the next line up.. Finally, cut out up to 10 small triangles and glue them between the top line and the line below it. You may add details (e.g. some brown trunks to the base of the triangles to look like trees. Note how the small triangles look like trees that are far away and the big triangle looks like a tree that is close.

After (Consolidation):

Student Reflection (Use Item C2)

Two things I did well (one star) & One thing I could improve (one wish)