



LESSON 6 LEVEL A LANDSCAPE

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

tearing and fastening papers to make a landscape collage

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

various colors of construction paper 30.5 x 45.7cm (12"x18"); paste; a damp sponge or paper towels or tissues.

"TIPS": To help young children clarify the idea of "landscape," plan to show an assortment of pictures of various kinds of landscapes from books and magazines.

For contrast, show some pictures that are quite different in subject matter, such as portraits, figures or still lifes. Help them realize that landscapes show mostly hills, trees, sky and other natural or man-made features. If figures are shown, they do not seem important. Landscape paintings are pictures of places.

Some children may need to be shown how to tear with small "nibbles", for control, rather than with bold, daring rips.

WHAT IS A LANDSCAPE? Learning the Subject Matter of Art



John Constable [Distant View of Salisbury Cathedral](#)
Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Williamstown MA USA

GETTING STARTED:

For adults, "landscape" means views of the country, cityscapes, ocean vistas or even grand, cloud-filled skies. Children think of a landscape more often as a place where something can happen: camping, fishing, fun in the snow, and so forth. In fact, that's what everybody thought until the 17th century, when Dutch artists began to paint scenery that was important for itself and not just a background for people doing things! Look at Constable's picture (above). Point out features such as the clouds, the distant church, the trees, and the shadows on the grass. Ask the child about the shapes of these objects.



Remind them to paste by applying a tiny amount of paste to the center of the smaller piece of paper that is to be fastened to the larger one. Smooth the paste toward the edges with a finger tip or a scrap of paper. Wipe fingers on a damp sponge or tissue. Start good work habits early!

1. Choose a sky-color for the background paper.

2. From another color of paper, tear a mountain or hill shape. Use tiny, controlled “nibbles.” Place the shape on the background but do not paste it yet.

3. Tear more shapes to show middle-ground and foreground objects. . .a lake, road, trees and bushes, a house or barn, maybe something unusual.

4. Place five or six of these shapes on the background paper. Try out several arrangements without pasting.

5. Beginning with the faraway things, fasten the various parts to the background paper, one at a time. Work toward the foreground until the picture is complete. The landscape has a near, a middle and a faraway place to look at.



Alex Age 6

CLEAN-UP: Encourage the child to do as much of the clean up as possible. Discard the small scraps, but save the larger ones in a folder or box, for future projects.

TALK ABOUT IT: Point out the landscape features in the completed picture. How would someone enter and walk through the different parts? What else could happen there?

CONNECTIONS: Find pictures in books of at least five kinds of landscape: mountains, deserts, farmlands, rain forests, beaches, and so forth. What kinds of activities would you expect to see or do in each place?

MORE IDEAS: Another day, make a seascape: On a piece of wet drawing paper, use watercolors to paint pale sky colors across the top third or half. Set it aside to dry. Cover a second wet paper with ocean colors. Use more paint to make richer green-blue, blue, and purple-blue tones, blended. When both papers are dry, tear strips of "ocean" so that a white edge shows on the edge of each "wave". Starting near the middle of the "sky" paper, dab paste on the ends of each strip and paste it down. Lap one over another and then trim the bottom edge. Draw a boat on another piece of paper. Cut it out and tuck it into the waves. What else could you add?

