

CYCLE 1 WEEK 5 FINE ARTS: DRAWING: PERSPECTIVE

Opening Activity:

- Draw a square on the board. Ask the students, “**What shape is this?**” (*square*)
- Add perspective to make it look like a box. Ask, “**What shape is this?**” (*cube, box*)
- Ask, “**What’s the difference between these two pictures?**” (*One is flat, one has depth.*)
- Perspective: Drawing objects so that they appear to have depth and are the correct size compared to other objects.

Observing Perspective in Art:

- Choose one of the following pieces of art (or any other that demonstrates perspective).
 - **The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere** by Grant Wood (1931)
 - **View from Mount Holyoke (The Oxbow)** by Thomas Cole (1836)
 - **The County Election by George Caleb Bingham** (1852)
 - **Allies Day by Childe Hassam** (1917)
- Ask the following questions and define the terms as students discover them:
 - What do you notice about the size of objects in the foreground compared with those in the background? (SIZE)
 - What do you notice about the spacing of objects in the foreground compared with those in the background? (SPACING)
 - Do any of the objects in the foreground overlap objects in the background? (OVERLAPPING)
 - Can you see a light side and a dark side in the picture? Where is the light source? (SHADING)
 - Do you notice any shadows in the picture? (SHADOW)
 - Where do the ground and sky meet? (HORIZON LINE)
 - Is there a point on this picture where distant objects seem to disappear from sight? (VANISHING POINT)

The “Grammar” of Perspective Art:

- Size: Nearby objects are larger than distant objects.
- Spacing: Nearby objects seem further apart and distant objects seem closer together.
- Overlapping: Objects drawn in front of other objects appear closer.
- Shading: Adding darkness to the edge of an object on the side that faces away from your light source will cause that edge to look farther away.
- Shadow: Adding darkness on the ground next to the shaded side of an object creates an illusion that the object is sitting on the ground.
- Horizon Line: The place where the ground and sky meet.
Objects in the sky are above the horizon.
Objects on the ground are below the horizon.
(Some begin below the horizon and extend above the horizon.)
- Vanishing Point The point at which distant objects seem to disappear from sight.

Resources Cited in This Lesson Plan:

Kistler, Mark. *Imagination Station*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1994. Print.

Picturing America Teachers Resource Book. Print.

Sherwin, Janice, and Delores Shimmin. *Abeka Art B*. Pensacola, FL: A Beka Book, 1999. Print.
Abeka Book Student Art Series.

W5 Perspective Drawing - Student Project

- Use a No. 2 pencil and have a ruler and an eraser ready.
- Use a ruler to lightly draw the horizon line (color coded in red) and mark the vanishing point (color coded in blue).
- Draw the front face of the house (color coded in brown).
- Use a ruler to draw the guidelines for each point of the house (color coded in green).
- Draw the lines to extend the roof and the house “into” the picture.
- Use a ruler to draw the outer two guidelines for the garden from the vanishing point. At the bottom of your page, divide the garden evenly. Use a ruler to draw the lines to the vanishing point (color coded in green).
- Draw the front tree just slightly larger than the house.
- Draw two trees behind the house using the guidelines from the house. (These trees should be smaller because they are farther away.)
- Add in a background scenery. Use your imagination. Perhaps your house is in a neighborhood. Perhaps it’s a cottage on a lake. The cabin here is pictured in the mountains.
- In your scenery, try overlapping (as in the mountains and clouds below). This adds depth.
- Imagine where the sun is in relation to your picture. In the picture below, the sun is off to the right. Add shading on the opposite side of every object in your picture. Add shadows on the ground where appropriate.
- Erase your guidelines.
- Add in details (siding on the house, shingles on the roof, plants in the garden, a lake off to one side, or anything else you can imagine).

