

First Grade: April
Lesson 6: Night Landscape
Oil Pastel and Watercolor

Objective: To create a resist painting showing a night landscape

Technique: Drawing with oil pastels, adding a watercolor wash

Set-up: (before lesson starts, docent and aides)

8 ½" x 11" white cover (card) stock paper

Pencils

Oil pastels

Watercolor wash station set-up: (separate table/area)

Paper towels

Watercolor washes

Large round brushes

Visuals:

Starry Night, Vincent Van Gogh

Sample artwork

Teaching the Lesson: (1 hour, total)

Give your aides a brief summary of the lesson

Introduce yourself and your aides

Students will be drawing a night landscape scene. They will be working with oil pastels. Show *Starry Night*, by Vincent Van Gogh: He showed a night sky full of swirling stars over a village at night. He painted this from his memory of a night sky, and it shows how he uses color and contrast to create his paintings. Today you will create a night landscape of your own design. Show sample artwork.

1. Review (5 min)

- Pastel use and technique:

Holding and applying: Hold your pastel sideways (NOT a like pencil or crayon), between thumb and forefinger. Press softly but firmly on one spot of the paper; this will give you a short but broad mark/streak.

Blocking: Blocking is filling in a space with color. You can use the side or the tip of the pastels and color in your shapes. Your hand will control how dark or light you want to make the color—a bit more pressure on the

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pastel may make the color appear darker; and less pressure may make the color appear lighter.

Layering: Layering is done by starting with one color, then adding another color over the first one. These two layers will visually blend, making a lighter or darker color.

- **Tip:** Advise students to BE CAREFUL. Oil pastels are soft and the color transfers from your hand to the paper, and colors may not always blend completely.

2. Plan and Landscape (15 min)

- Place your paper in a landscape orientation (horizontal)
- Composition

Consider foreground, middle ground and background: The setting for your landscape, where your night scene is located (mountains, hills, sea, rivers, meadows, etc.). Think about size of details to show perspective. The foreground shows the images that are closest in your perspective. Items closer up may appear larger than those things behind them. Images in the middle ground and background may have less detail.

Consider variety and patterns: Types of details to show your landscape setting (water, rocks, trees, flowers, boulders, trails, waves, etc.); think about how you will group images together. Some images may overlap from the foreground to the background. Include repeating patterns and details to develop visual rhythm and interest to your landscape.

Sketch with a pencil: Night landscape scene, draw the largest shapes in the foreground first. Arrange shapes to show that some parts of the picture are near (larger), others are far away (smaller).

3. Block-in and Layer (20-25 min)

- After your sketch is completed, color-in all images, covering all pencil lines
- Vary the pressure with pastels to create bolder, thicker and richer colors
- You may choose to build up one color, or layer and blend different colors
- Try to use different hues, or colors, next to each other; this way your night landscape will look very colorful and interesting (blue next to green, red next to orange, etc.)
- Include darker outlines and color-in some white paper areas to show that it is night (shadows, sky, moon, stars, etc.)
- Tip: All colored-in areas will resist the watercolor wash; encourage students to color-in, and leave some background areas white

4. Complete Landscape (3 min)

- Erase any smudges with a soft eraser
- Make sure all pencil lines are covered
- Sign name
- Give a title

5. Watercolor Wash and Share (10-15 min)

Done at the watercolor wash station:

- Docent directs the wash station; aides circulate and check for completed landscapes.
- As students finish their drawings, aides direct student to wash station. Station should have limit of 5 students at any given time.
- Wash artwork: Dip your brush in the water. Using broad strokes, wash over a section of your artwork with the watercolor paint, repeating until the entire surface is covered. It may be helpful to brush from side to side on your paper.
- Encourage artists to start at the top with the darkest color and gradually add a lighter color as they move down the paper. This is called a graded wash. Remind them that the horizon may be lighter, from the sun.
- Have the artists cover all areas of white on their paper with the wash.
- Have the artists observe how the areas of oil pastel resist the watercolor wash.
- Share

Clean-up: (after lesson ends, docent and aides)

Close the lesson, clean up the classroom

Sharpen pencils

Return pastels to containers

Rinse and gently dry brushes

Return watercolor washes and brushes (bristles up) to caddy

Return all materials to bin

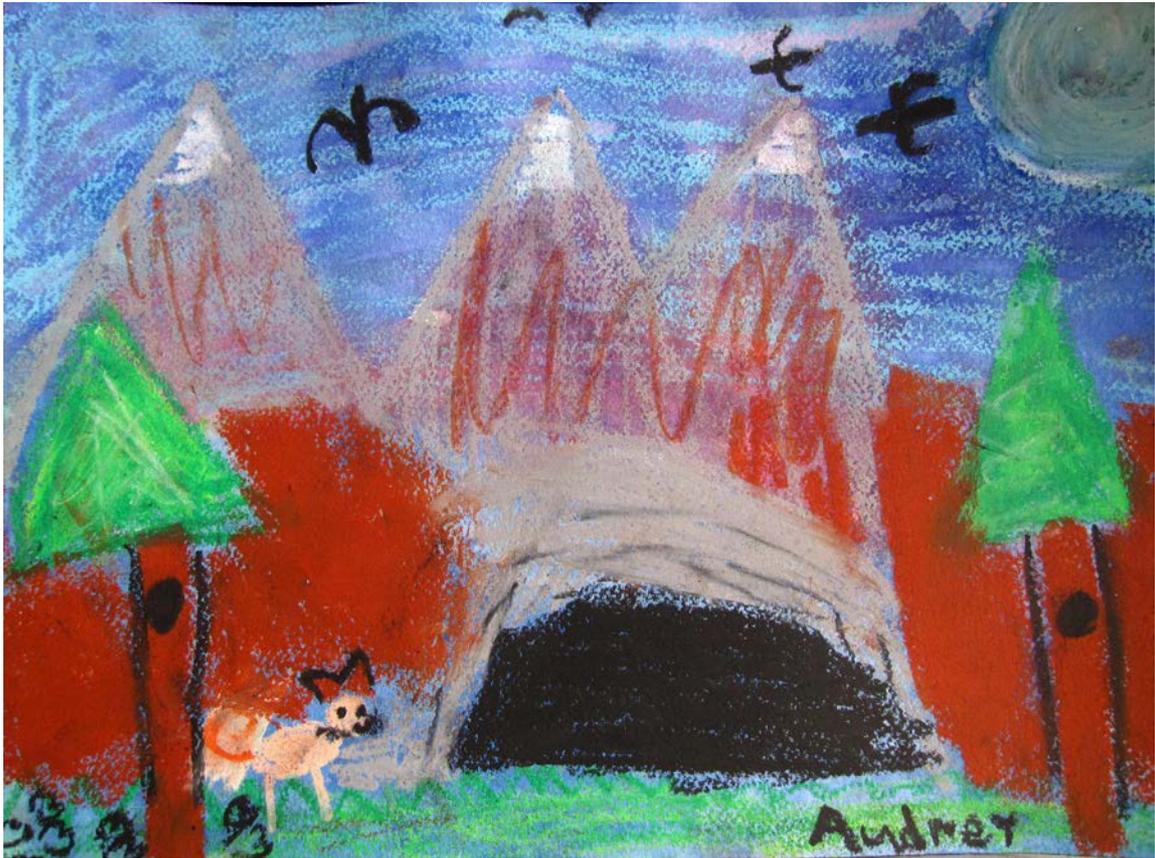
Return all materials to the art closet

Ask teacher where to store artwork

Arrange time with teacher to display artwork



Starry Night, Vincent Van Gogh



Sample artwork: Audrey Night Landscape