

Descriptive Landscapes

7th Grade ELA and Visual Arts

CORE SUBJECT AREA

ELA

ART FORM + ELEMENTS

Visual Arts
Landscape

OBJECTIVES

Students can define a landscape and identify how artists visually evoke the feeling of a place. Students use descriptive detail, sensory language, and landscape vocabulary to describe visual images.

DURATION

One 50 minute class period

MSCCR STANDARDS

W.7.3d - Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.

MSCCR CREATIVE ARTS STANDARDS

VA: Re7.2.7 - Perceive and analyze artistic work.
a. Analyze multiple ways that images influence specific audiences.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Examples of landscapes
2. "Looking at Landscapes Vocabulary" sheet
3. Student Activity Sheet: "If You Were in This Picture"
4. Writing materials

VOCABULARY

1. landscape
2. seascape
3. cityscape
4. point of view
5. foreground
6. background
7. middle ground

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

http://www.getty.edu/education/teachers/classroom_resources/curricula/esl/esl_lesson05.html

<https://www.google.com/search?http://grammar.yourdictionary.com/word-lists/list-of-descriptive-words.html>

<http://www.waunakee.k12.wi.us/faculty/lcarothers/EffectiveWriting/Descriptive/Sensory%20Words.pdf>

LESSON SEQUENCE

1. Bellwork: Ask students to close their eyes and think about an outdoor space that means something to them. It can be a place they have visited, their homeland, or a place they have lived in the United States. Ask them to think of all the details they can remember about a typical day at this place, such as the weather, what was nearby, who they were with, what they were doing, etc. Ask them to "freeze frame" that image in their mind's eye (make it still, unmoving).
2. Introduce the vocabulary list "Looking at Landscapes" provided in your resources. Ask students to describe their meaningful place using the new words from the vocabulary list.
3. Ask students to re-create this place in their imaginations. What does it look like? What is in the foreground?

Middle ground? Background? From what point of view are they seeing their landscape? Have them describe this place to their neighbor.

4. Tell students that they are going to focus on a landscape. Explain that sometimes artists choose to make images of real places and sometimes they choose imaginary places. Display the image so the class can view it.
5. Pass out the “If You Were in This Picture” activity sheet. Ask students to answer the questions while looking at this landscape.
6. Give students time to work on their answers. Descriptive word lists are provided in the resources.
7. When students have completed the worksheets, ask them to share their responses.
8. Exit Ticket: “Use three words that best describe this landscape” (post an example on the board).

EXTENDED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1. Students can also go outside and write about the landscape around the school using the “If you were in this picture” guide.
2. The activity can be done in reverse where the students read a description of a setting, experience, or event and create the picture. Provide several materials such as paint, colored pencils, markers, etc.

SOURCES

- http://www.getty.edu/education/teachers/classroom_resources/curricula/esl/esl_lesson05.html
- <https://www.google.com/search?>
- <http://grammar.yourdictionary.com/word-lists/list-of-descriptive-words.html>
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TIPS + FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Use a variety of landscapes, cityscapes, and seascapes in your examples.
 2. Use resources to help students come up with descriptive language.
 3. Tips for Teaching about Landscapes: Listed below are some general questions that you might ask when looking at any landscape. Landscapes are great images to look at when you want to evoke thought and expression about the five senses. It is helpful to have students imagine they are in the landscape. It's amazing how all our senses come alive when we immerse ourselves in a visual image and feel like we are actually there.
- What do you think of this place?
 - Does it seem like a place you would like to visit?
 - If you were in this landscape, where would you be?
 - What would you be doing?
 - What would you see, hear, smell, and feel in this place?
 - Where did the artist sit while making this image?