



## Plein Air Landscapes

### GRADES 6-12

Cross Curricular: Art History,  
Social Studies and Math

*Lesson Plan and Artwork by  
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### DESCRIPTION

In this lesson, students will create a work en plein air, a French Expression that literally means "in open air". This "open air" opportunity will give students the venue to paint in natural light and use the values the light creates to enhance their works.

### NATIONAL STANDARDS

#### Content Standard #1:

Understanding and applying media techniques and processes.

#### Content Standard #3:

Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas

#### Content Standard #5:

Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and work of others.

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### OBJECTIVES

- Teachers and students will research the history and craft of plein air painting.
- Students will study the various techniques used by plein air painters to achieve their outdoor paintings and adapt them to their own painting.
- Students will become familiar with using Crescent® 99 Illustration boards for the base of their work. The boards feature a medium tooth surface perfect for acrylics and paint markers. The medium-weight boards are easy to transport and work in any location.

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## DIRECTIONS

1. Teacher and students will determine where they will do their plein air paintings. A place can be chosen close to school or in their neighborhood keeping in mind that plein air paintings do not have to be landscapes. They are works of art done as seen outdoors in natural light.
2. Once a location is determined students should do several sketches to determine the most interesting composition. A view finder can be very helpful in choosing the best composition.
3. Once a composition is selected students will return to the sight daily at the same time to complete their work. This may not always be possible due to time and weather. Photographs can be taken of the location to capture the effects of natural light. The photographs can help students complete the work of art in the classroom if daily outings are not possible.
4. Working on board can present the same amount of challenges to students as on a traditional support system. Students should experiment with various painting techniques on a board before starting their final work
5. When paintings are completed have student display their works and participate in a round table discussion using the following talking points.
  - A. The source of their subject matter and the steps they took to develop their painting.
  - B. The various painting techniques used and why they were chosen.
  - C. The basic art elements used.
  - D. The focal point in the work and how this helps understand the importance of composition in a painting.
  - E. The pros and cons of plein air painting.



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## MATERIALS

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 1496113 | Crescent® 99 Illustration Board School Pack, 11" x 14", Pack of 40                               |
| 1572473 | Sax® True Flow® Heavy-Bodied Acrylic, Pints, Set of 12   |
| 1502730 | Royal® Brush Acrylic Handle Golden Taklon Brush Combo, Set of 72                                 |
| 1485665 | Liquitex® Professional Paint Markers™, Wide Tip, Assorted Colors, Set of 6 (Kit includes 2 sets) |
| 1485666 | Liquitex® Professional Paint Markers™, Fine Tip, Assorted Colors, Set of 6 (Kit includes 2 sets) |
| 1496023 | Liquitex® Professional Paint Markers™, Wide Tip, Assorted Fluorescent Colors, Set of 6           |
| 1496024 | Liquitex® Professional Paint Markers™, Fine Tip, Assorted Fluorescent Colors, Set of 6           |
| 443561  | General's® Solid Drawing Pencil Classroom Pack of 144  |

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