

ArtWonders



LANDSCAPE

Classroom Discussion and Activity Ideas

Neighborhood Notes

Narrative: Artists take notes on what they see around them everyday . . . in the neighborhood or during trips to faraway places. These notes inspire landscape paintings. Students will consider the *people, places, clues* and *mood* found in historic landscape paintings. The suggested art activity allows students to keep a running log of what they see in the neighborhood around school and then use these notes to create a class picture of the neighborhood.

Discussion: Using the landscapes included in this web program, ask students to make believe they've entered each painting. What do you see first? Keep walking back in space. What do you see next? If you see people, what will you ask them? After these "walks," add in specific information on the historic landscapes, complimenting students on their careful observation. Extend the discussion, asking "why" questions. Why did you notice (a detail)? (Perhaps the sun shines on it, or it's in the near foreground.)

Art Activity: Using the student worksheet, *Neighborhood Notes*, have students keep a regular log (daily or once a week) of what they see in the neighborhood. After each entry, ask: What did you see today that you didn't see the last time? After completing a number of entries (at the discretion of the teacher), introduce the art project: a collaborative mural of the school neighborhood. Share ideas on what each student noted over time. As a group, decide what should go in the mural of the neighborhood. What are important buildings or landmarks? What kind of people live and work in the neighborhood? What kind of weather is typical? Ask if any students would like something new in the neighborhood, perhaps a store or a circus or even something improbable like a rain forest!

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Classroom Discussion and Activity Ideas (*continued*)

Other activities:

1

Keep weather logs for the two places featured in the landscape paintings: Dedham, England and Guayaquil, Ecuador. Is their weather similar to ours?

2

Gather information on Alexander von Humboldt and his trip to Chimborazo.

3

Make reports on England and Ecuador, identifying where Constable lived and Church painted.

4

Keep a log on Mount Wilson, our local mountain.
Visit: www.astro.ucla.edu/~obs/towercam.htm.

Connections to other subject areas:

Language Arts

Write about the school neighborhood, a kind of “day in the life of” essay.

Math

Learn about and practice linear perspective.

History

Learn about life in England in the early 19th century. Compare Constable’s picture with life in Los Angeles today. How do we move products to stores? How do people get from one place to another? How do people dress? Learn about travel to South America in the middle of the 19th century.

Science

Define and then discuss the importance to science and art of the direct observation of nature.