

Foreground, Middleground, Background: Atmospheric Perspective

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will create depth in a landscape drawing using layering and atmospheric perspective, where objects further away appear lighter, less detailed, and bluer.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- pencil
- colored pencils (including blues/grays)
- paper
- eraser

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Divide your paper into 3 horizontal bands, lightly sketched, representing foreground (bottom), middleground (middle), and background (top, near the horizon).
2. In the foreground, draw 1-2 objects, such as trees, rocks, or a fence, with the most detail, darkest values, and warmest, most saturated colors.
3. In the middleground, draw similar elements, such as a row of trees or hills, with less detail and slightly lighter, cooler colors.
4. In the background, draw distant hills or mountains using the lightest values and a blue-gray tint, with almost no fine detail, to simulate atmospheric haze.
5. Compare all three layers side by side and label each layer directly on your drawing.

QUESTIONS

1. What is 'atmospheric perspective'?

2. Why did you use the darkest, most detailed marks in the foreground?

3. Why do distant mountains often look blue or gray rather than their true color?

-
4. **If you removed the atmospheric perspective technique and made all 3 layers equally detailed and dark, what would happen to the sense of depth?**
-