

## Cézanne and the Modern: Masterpieces of European Art from the Pearlman Collection

**Lesson Plan:** Observing Nature through the Elements of Art

### Background:

- Grade Levels: K - 5
- Time: 45 Minutes

### Essential Questions:

- What are the elements of art?
- Where can we see the elements of art in nature around us?

### Objective:

Through observing the world around them, students will find and reproduce the elements of art as they appear in nature, thus applying Paul Cézanne's philosophy, which states, "Art is a harmony parallel with nature."

### Terms:

- Line
- Shape
- Color
- Texture
- Observation

### Materials:

- "Field Book" with spaces for each of the art elements – 1 per student
- Pencil – 1 per student
- Color-making Materials (ArtStyx) – Accessible to all students

### Lesson:

#### Introduction:

1. Explain how most artists begin their artwork by observing nature.
  - a. Cézanne's color palette is strongly influenced by the natural blues, greens, and browns from the natural world around him. In addition, he used geometric and organic shapes within his watercolor paintings.
    - a. What colors do you see here?
    - b. What shapes do you see here?
  - b. Images: *Provencal Manor* (1885), *Cistern in the Park of Chateau Noir* (1900), *Mont Sainte-Victorie* (1904-06), *Forest Path* (1904), *Forest Interior* (1890)

2. Restate the elements of art the students will be looking for outside (Line, Shape, Color, Texture)
  - a. Discuss the relationships of the different elements of art that are seen in nature
  - b. Photo of a tree: what elements of art do you see here?
3. Brainstorm with the class on where you could see the different elements.
  - a. Show some examples of the elements, and where to find them outside.
  - b. Emphasize rubbings to show texture.

**Lesson:**

1. Students will be allowed to roam in a secure area of nature to find different elements of art.
2. Students will fill each designated page with the separate elements of art, moving from scene to scene outside.
3. Back in the classroom, discuss with your students what they saw outside.

**Assessment:**

Students will be assessed on:

- Their understanding of the different elements of art
- If they reproduced them in their field book accurately

**Modifications/Extensions:**

-As ages increase, students can combine the elements they observed into a landscape sketch.

-Focusing on composition, and balance.

-Students can make a "Shape Landscape" of nature, where they choose a scene and abstract it to just the basic forms.

- Once back in the classroom, students can cut out the shapes on colored paper and make a shape landscape collage.

**Standards:**

Kindergarten

VAKMC.1 Engages in the creative process to generate and visualize ideas.

VAKPR.1 Creates artworks based on personal experience and selected themes.

VAKPR.2 Understands and applies media, techniques, and processes of two-dimensional

works of art (e.g., drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media) using tools and materials in a safe and appropriate manner to develop skills.

VA1MC.3 Selects and uses subject matter, symbols, and ideas to communicate meaning.

### First Grade

VA1CU.1 Identifies artists as creative thinkers who make art and share ideas.

VA1AR.1 Discusses his or her artwork and the artwork of others.

### Second Grade

VA2CU.1 Identifies artists as creative thinkers who make art and share their ideas.

VA2CU.2 Views and discusses selected artworks.

### Third Grade

VA3CU.2 Views and discusses selected artworks.

VA3PR.3 Creates artworks based on personal experience and selected themes.

VA3PR.3 Understands and applies media, techniques, and processes of three-dimensional works of art (ceramics, sculpture, crafts, and mixed-media) using tools and materials in a safe and appropriate manner to develop skills.

### Fourth Grade

VA4MC.1 Engages in the creative process to generate and visualize ideas.

VA4MC.2 Formulates personal responses to visual imagery.

VA4MC.3 Selects and uses subject matter, symbols, and/or ideas to communicate meaning.

VA4CU.2 Views and discusses selected artworks.

VA4PR.1 Creates artworks based on personal experience and selected themes.

### Fifth Grade

VA5MC.1 Engages in the creative process to generate and visualize ideas.

VA5MC.2 Formulates personal responses to visual imagery.

VA5MC.3 Selects and uses subject matter, symbols, and/or ideas to communicate meaning.

VA5CU.2 Views and discusses selected artworks.

VA5PR.1 Creates artworks based on personal experience and selected themes.

VA5PR.3 Understands and applies media, techniques, and processes of three-dimensional works of art (e.g., ceramics, sculpture, crafts, mixed-media) using tools and materials in a safe and appropriate manner to develop skills.

VA5C.2 Develops life skills through the study and production of art.