



TIMKEN
MUSEUM
OF ART

Educators Open House K-5 Grade Lesson Plan





Deconstruct & Reconstruct

Grades K-5



Claude-Joseph Vernet
1714-1789

Claude-Joseph Vernet, a native of Avignon, France, went to Rome in 1734. Over the next decade he established himself in Italy as a painter of real and imaginary landscapes inspired by the local countryside and seacoast.

A Seaport at Sunset, 1749
Oil on canvas

In this painting, the artist depicts an idealized Mediterranean seaport, rather than a specific location, and uses a variety of features from the region. The lighthouse is in Naples; the Arch of Constantine is in Rome and the lateen-rigged ship on the right is a type common to the eastern Mediterranean. The large warship fires a salute and the nearby ships fly the Dutch flag, indicating that the painting may have been commissioned by a Dutch client. Many other ships are seen in the distance. In the center foreground, we see a figure who has just disembarked from one of the Dutch ships. The man wears a gold trimmed hat suggesting he is a Dutch naval war officer. The scene displays men, women and children in various states of interaction, excitement and activity.

Objective

To encourage students to find new approaches to detect information in a painting. Students will identify geometric shapes and forms. They will disassemble the imagery of one painting to create a new artwork with a new narrative.

Curriculum Connections

English Language Arts and Visual Arts

Common Core Standards Met

ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7

ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3

ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.7

Supplies

- Pencils
- Paper
- Colored pencils or pastels
- Copies of the painting (page 4)

Process

- Project the painting on the smart board and begin the lesson with the *Look, Talk, Listen, Connect* activity outlined in the green section below. Initially, allow students to freely associate any and all ideas they choose to discuss about the artwork.
- Share the information regarding the artist and the subject matter of the artwork that is provided on the first page of this lesson.
- Highlight how the scene depicted in the painting was invented by the artist. Tell students that Vernet combined three separate landmarks from three separate regions: a lighthouse from Naples, the Arch of Constantine from Rome, and the lateen-rigged ship on the right which is a type common to the eastern Mediterranean.
- Pass out the copy of the painting found on page 4, a sheet of scratch paper, and one blank piece of paper (drawing paper is preferred, but not necessary).
- Read the definition of forms and shapes provided in the *Vocabulary* section to help your students understand the differences.
- Go around the class and ask students to name forms and shapes they can find in the painting and have them circle the shapes and forms on the copy you passed out. Also, draw their answers on your white board for them to reference later. Let students know that the shapes and forms they discover in the painting will not necessarily look exactly like the shape or form origin, i.e. a cloud could be drawn with an oval, the mast of a ship could be drawn as a long thin cylinder, etc.
- Ask students to choose five or more different shapes and forms from the picture and have them draw their choices on the piece of scratch paper.
- Show your students the example of a finished project on page 5 and tell them that they will be using the shapes and forms they chose from the paintings to create a new scene, object, or design. Make sure to point out how in the example some shapes and forms are overlapping and some are by themselves.
- Ask students to create their artwork using pencils and then pass out colored pencils or pastels for them to color in their drawings.
- Leave time for a gallery walk.

Look, Talk, Listen, Connect

Project an image of the artwork onto the classroom wall and facilitate a discussion by using these three open-ended questions:

- What's going on in this work of art?
- What do you see that makes you say that?
- What more can we find?

As students respond, teachers are asked to:

- Paraphrase comments neutrally.
- Point at the area being discussed.
- Link and frame student comments.

Vocabulary

Landscape

Landscapes are works of art that feature scenes of nature: mountains, lakes, gardens, rivers, etc. They can be oil paintings, watercolors, gouache, pastels, or prints of any kind.

Commission

In art, a commission is the hiring and payment for the creation of a piece, often on behalf of another. Artwork may be commissioned by private individuals, by the government, or businesses. Commissions often resemble endorsement or sponsorship.

Form

The visible shape or configuration of something that is three-dimensional with a length, width and a depth. Examples are: cube, cylinder, trapezoidal prism etc.

Shape

An enclosed space that is two-dimensional with only a length and a width. Examples are: square, rectangle, trapezoid etc.

Overlap

When one shape or form extends over or partly covers



Example of a Finished Project

