



TIMKEN
MUSEUM
OF ART

Lesson: Postcards from San Diego Grades K-12





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Luca Carlevarijs (1663-1730)

Luca Carlevarijs lived and worked in Venice, Italy, most of his life. He pioneered the genre of the cityscapes (vedute) of Venice, a genre that was later widely followed by artists such as Canaletto and Francesco Guardi. Carlevarijs’ many precise renditions of the city reveal his early training as a mathematician. His paintings and over a hundred etchings of views in Venice give an exact representation of the principal places in that city.

The Piazzetta at Venice (ca. 1700-10)

This painting of the Piazzetta in Venice places the viewer in a boat on the Grand Canal, looking north toward the Piazza of San Marco. The direction of the shadows from the southwest indicates that the time is afternoon. On the left are the library of Sansovino, the lower portion of its Campanile, and the column of Saint Theodoric. To the right are the south side of Saint Mark’s Basilica, the Doge’s Palace, and the column of Saint Mark. The buildings, though not entirely accurate in certain architectural details, remain largely unchanged to this day.

Objective

- Document an experience through the creation of an artwork.
- Learn formal elements of visual composition.
- Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding using descriptive vocabulary.

Curriculum Connections

English Language Arts and Visual Arts

Common Core Standards Met

- ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.7,9
- ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.3,7
- ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1,10
- ELA-LITERACY.W.3.2, 3.2A&C
- ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.2, 3.4, 3.6

Art Materials

- Copy Paper
- Card stock paper cut to 5” x 7”
- Pencils with erasers
- Colored pencils



Process

- Project *The Piazzetta at Venice* on your screen, and provide the prompts:
 - Where do you think the scene in this painting is located?
 - What do you think the people are doing?
- Encourage students to take their time viewing the piece by instructing them to read the painting as they would a page in a book, from left to right, top to bottom.
- Read to your students the information about the painting and the artist provided in this lesson. Explain how the artist, Luca Carlevarijs, made Venetian “veduta” paintings that he sold to tourists who were touring Italy.
- Define “veduta” from the vocabulary list below.
- Go around the room and ask students to share with the class where their favorite San Diego destination is.
- Write their answers on your white board.
- Inform students that they will be creating a postcard of their favorite place to send to a friend or family member.
- Choose one of the answers on the white board to begin demonstrating the postcard-making process.
- Next, define “composition” in terms of visual art from the vocabulary list below. Explain that artists have to think through what they want to make before they start an artwork.
- Read the list of compositional rules, provided in Supplement 1, to your class. As you read them, copy the small drawings from Supplement 1 onto your white board to illustrate the concepts. Alternatively, show Supplement 1 in the document viewer.
- Next, draw three “quick-study” boxes on the white board and define “quick-study”.
- Inside each box, draw a different version of the favorite place you chose for the demonstration, and identify which compositional technique/s you are employing. See Supplement 1 for examples.
- Pass out a sheet of copy paper to students, and ask them to draw three quick-studies of their favorite place. Remind the group that quick-studies are drawn quickly and possess very little detail.
- Pass out the 5”x7” card stock and instruct students to choose one of their quick-studies to redraw onto the card.
- Pass out colored pencils and have students color in their postcards.
- If there is time, on the back of the postcard, ask students to write to a relative or friend, describing the place depicted on the other side.
- At the end of the project, allow time for a gallery walk so that students read and see what their peers created.

Vocabulary

Veduta

A veduta (Italian for “view”; plural vedute) is a highly detailed, largely factual painting, drawing, or etching depicting a city, town, or other place.

The painters of vedute are referred to as vedutisti.

Doge

The chief magistrate in the republics of Venice and Genoa.

Campanile

A bell tower (now especially when freestanding), often associated with a church or other public building, especially in Italy. The Leaning Tower of Pisa is a campanile.

Composition

Arrangement of shapes in a picture.

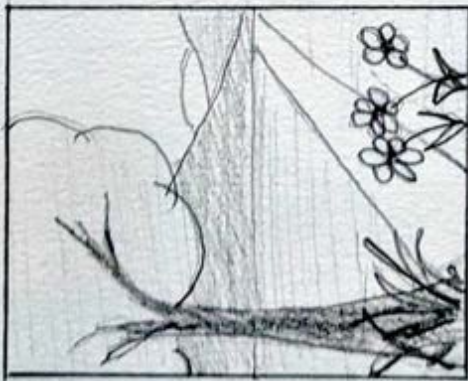
Quick-study

A small and quick drawing made with very little detail.

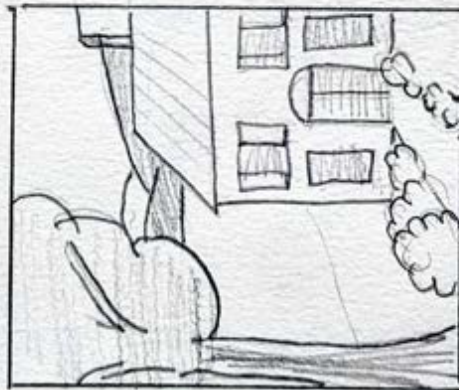


Supplement 1

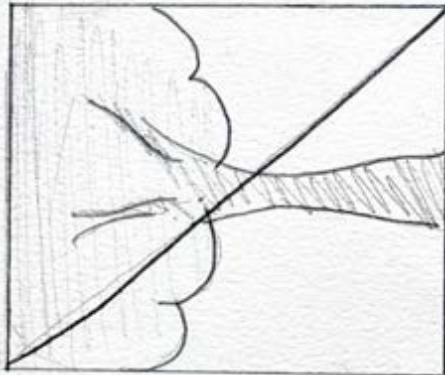
Composition Rules and Quick-Studies



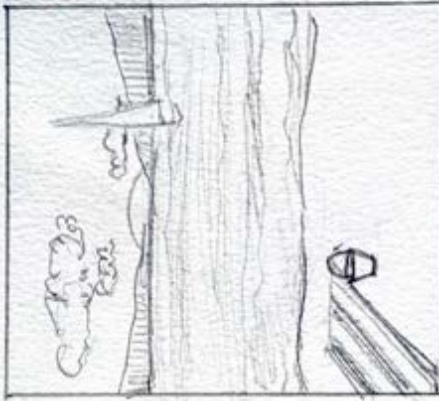
1. Overlapping Forms



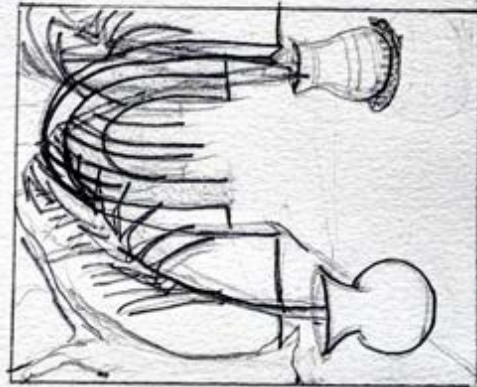
2. Varying sizes and shapes



3. Don't center important forms.



5. Rule of thirds

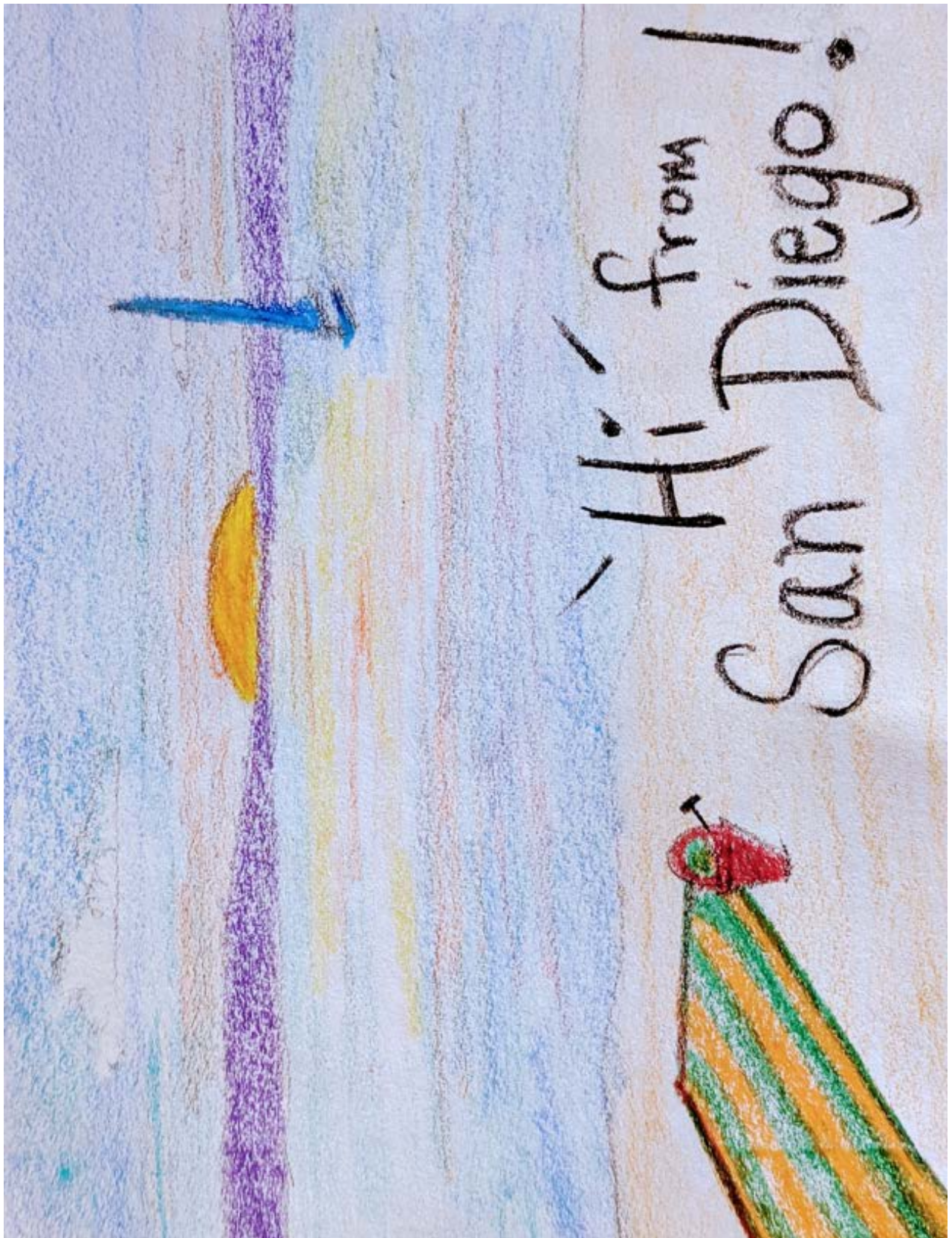


4. Triangle



Supplement 2

Example of Finished Artwork





Rubric

Self and Peer Assessment

Rubric Components	Point Scale				Student's Score
	4	3	2	1	
Student followed the directions of the lesson					
Artwork demonstrates an understanding of the objective of the lesson					
Artwork demonstrates effort					
Artwork demonstrates attention to detail and careful craftsmanship					
Artwork possesses added creativity that was not assigned					

