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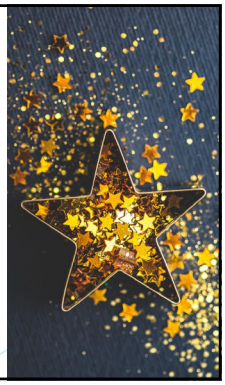
Artists are Visual Magicians

TECHNIQUES TO TRICK THE EYE

1) Vanishing point
2) Changing the size of an object to create the illusion of distance
3) Shading to create depth
4) Defining color

Illustration by: www.behance.net/rebecca_villi

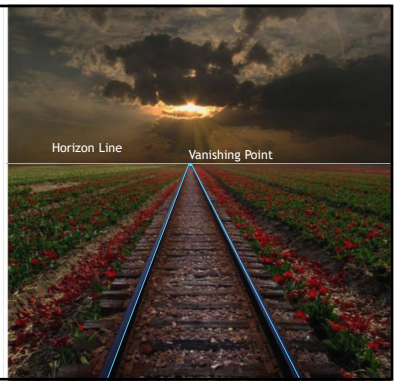


2

If a train were riding on this track, what does this picture tell your brain?

1. Our eye looks to the horizon line to make sense of the image.
2. It looks like the train tracks come to a point, like they meet at the horizon line.
3. Our brain knows that this isn't true. The vanishing point is an illusion. It's a point where something disappears or ceases to exist.

"Beautiful Sunset in Romania"
Photograph By: Avramescu Florin



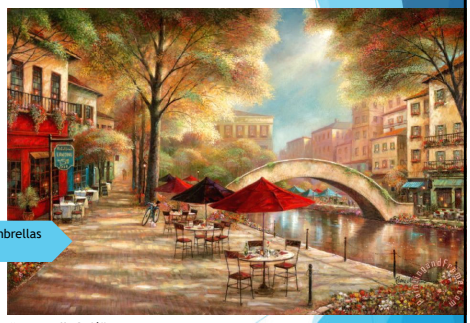
3

Perspective

--a technique that enables artists to add the illusion of depth to a painting or drawing

An object can appear to be in the distance by making it small and enlarging items that are near the viewer.

Describe how the size of the umbrellas change in this picture?



"Riverwalk Café"
Acrylic Painting By: Ruane Manning

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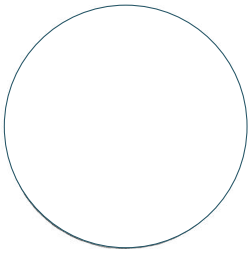
Shading Adds Dimension & Depth



An artist has the power to trick your eyes into believing something has dimension, when it is really drawn on a flat surface.

They can take a shape like a circle and with shading and shadows can turn it into a three-dimensional (3D) sphere.

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Gradation in the Sky

To make a sky look realistic, an artist understands that the color of the sky will be darker higher up and lighter as it comes towards the horizon.

"Blue Water Blue Sky"
Photograph By: Tina Jones

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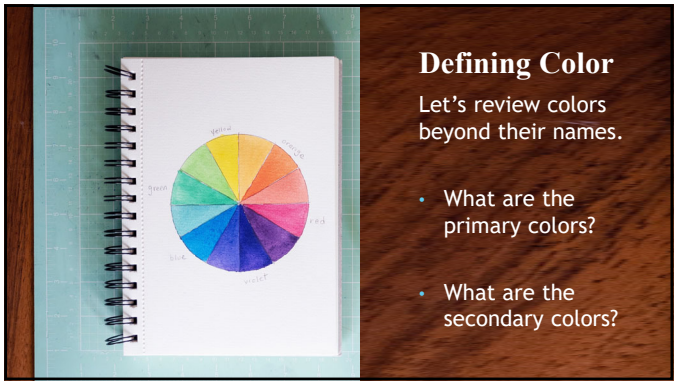

Defining Color

Let's review colors beyond their names.

- What are the primary colors?
- What are the secondary colors?

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Primary & Secondary Colors

Blue + Yellow

Red + Yellow

Red + Blue

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Complementary Colors

When complementary colors are placed near each other, this relationship pleases a viewer without them even thinking about it.

But, there has to be balance. There can be a lot of energy between colors. Some may see a vibration when complementary colors overlap.

PRIMARY COLORS

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Art Supplies:

- 8.5" x 5.5" white cardstock
- Oil pastels
- Pencil to draw the image first
- Ruler (3rd - 5th graders)
- K-2nd use pre-drawn lines
- Scrap paper for underneath

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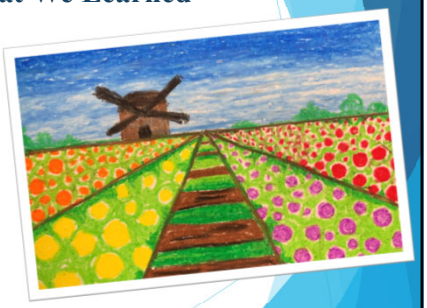
Combining What We Learned

1. Create a vanishing point.
2. Shade the sky from dark to light with blue and white pastels.
3. Vary the size of our circles to make things appear to get smaller in the distance.
4. Identify primary and secondary colors.



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Put your name and the year on the back of your paper

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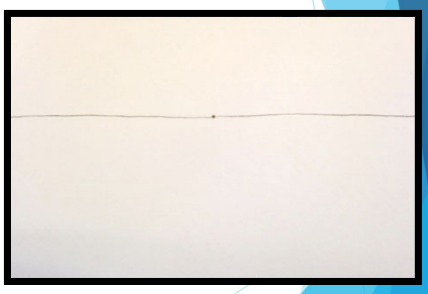
Step by Step

K-2nd start on slide 15

1. Draw the horizon line so there is more space below the line than above it.
2. Draw a dot in the middle of the line.



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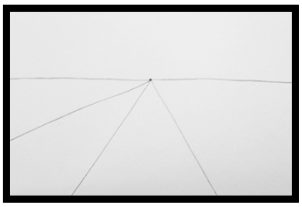
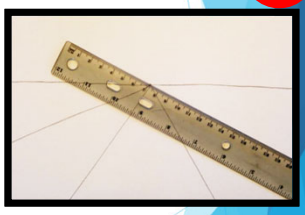
Add a Vanishing Point

K-2nd start on next slide





- Draw 4 lines from the dot to the edge of the page.
- 3rd-5th graders can use a ruler. Keep the edge of the ruler on the dot and move it like its hands on a clock.

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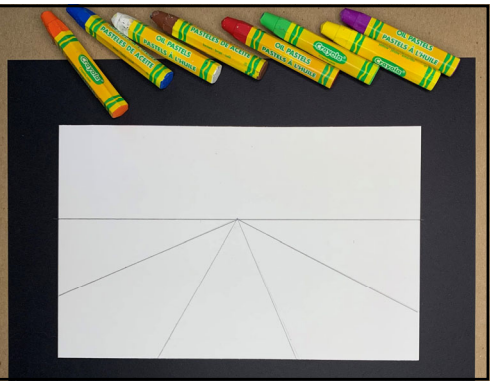
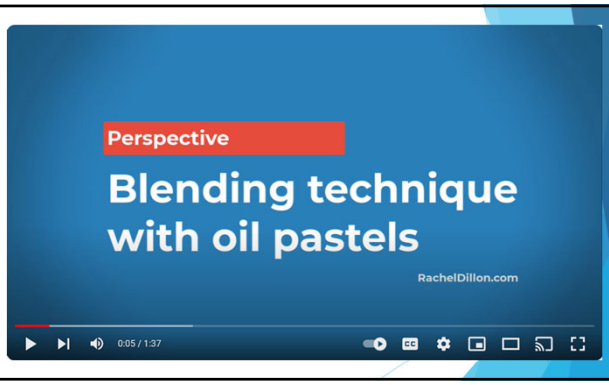
Outline Complete

Next step - the Sky

Grab a dark blue pastel and a white pastel.



15



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Big circles to small as they move toward the horizon

TIP: Give space between dots (flowers) to make it easier to fill in with light green for the next step.

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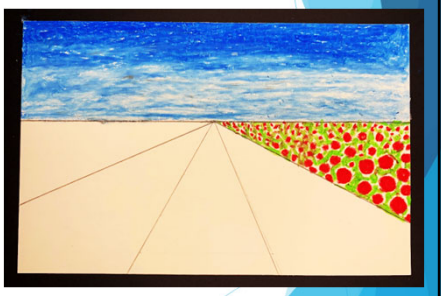
Fill in the space around the circles with light green.



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Add different colored "flowers" to the other fields leaving the middle blank.

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Perspective

Adding depth with dark green

RachelDillon.com

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Train tracks

- As the tracks move to the horizon, they should become thinner.
- Use brown to make the tracks and fill in between with green.

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Windmill & Bushes

1. On the Horizon Line draw a thimble-like shape in a dark color. The shape should be small on the horizon, no bigger than your thumb.
2. Along the horizon, much smaller than the windmill add some bushes.
3. Last step, outline the horizon line and the lines between the fields with brown.

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Just Art
Docent Program

I HOPE YOU ENJOYED THIS LESSON

Stay Curious!

Rachel Allen Dillon
www.RachelDillon.com

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