

# Cityscape Reflection Drawings and Paintings

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*Grades 5-8*

## Overview

Students will combine drawing and painting in a single artwork as they create cityscapes on the water. They will draw a very detailed cityscape on the top half of their paper. They will use dry media such as pencil crayon or oil pastel to colour in their drawings. Then they will use paint to create reflections of their cityscapes, paying close attention to symmetry. Through this, students will explore composition, attention to detail, and the concept of using different materials to achieve different effects. Students will also refine their drawing and painting skills.

## What you will need:

- watercolour/painting paper
- pencil
- ruler
- eraser
- paint (any kind)
- brushes
- something to colour with - markers, crayons, pencil crayons, oil pastels



## What you can also use:

- chalk

This painting is part of the Helson Gallery's exhibition, *The Collector's Eye*. The exhibition features artwork by Canadian artists. This artwork of a town on the water is titled *Honfleur Harbour* and was painted by George Purdue. We will be creating our own cityscapes on the water.

How are the reflections different from the actual objects? Is the artist's technique effective?



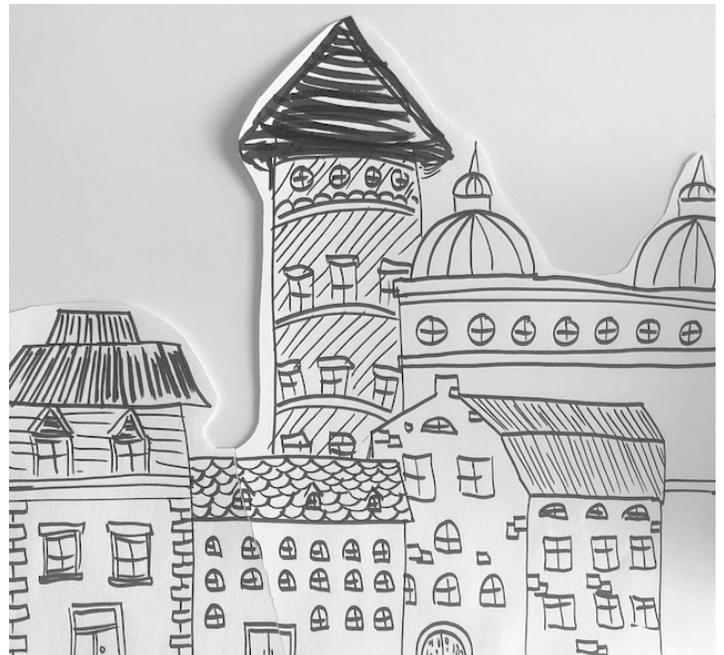
What elements did the artist add to the buildings to give them visual interest?

## Step 1: Divide your page in Half

We will begin by drawing cityscapes on the top half of the page. First, we have to divide our page in half horizontally. Fold your paper in half horizontally (fold the top down to meet the bottom). Unfold your paper and use the crease of the fold as your guide to draw a horizontal line across the page. You can use a ruler if you like.

## Step 2: Draw your cityscape

Draw a town or cityscape on the top half of your paper. Do not draw below the line. This space will be used to create a reflection later on. Draw a series of buildings, houses, or both all the way across the page. Try not to leave many gaps between the buildings. You can even overlap the buildings if you like. Use different heights and widths to give your buildings variety. Be as creative as you want in the types of buildings and structures you draw. You can be imaginative with the types of buildings you create. They can be



real buildings like the CN Tower, or you can create your own intricate architectural designs.

### Step 3: Add detail

Add details to make your buildings more realistic and visually interesting. The level of detail that you can include is up to you. Some examples of elements that you can add to your buildings are bricks, stones, wood grain and window casings.



### Step 4: Colour your cityscape

Colour your buildings using your material of choice. You can use markers, oil pastels, or wax crayons. If your drawing has a lot of fine detail, coloured pencils are a good choice.



**Tip for Colouring the Sky:** Remove the wrapper from a crayon or oil pastel. Broken crayons and pastels are great for this. Colour in the sky using the side of the crayon, rather than the tip. You can also use chalk. Using the side of a crayon, pastel or chalk will create a light and airy sky and will allow you to colour it more evenly and quickly than by using the tips, or colouring with pencil crayons.

The sky doesn't have to be blue. It can be a black night sky. You can mix red, orange and yellow to make a sunset, and can add pink and purple if you like. The possibilities are endless!

## Step 5: Paint your reflections

Use paint to create reflections of your buildings. Keep in mind that your reflections will be upside down reversals of your buildings. Make sure to pay close attention to symmetry. Your painted reflections do not have to be as detailed as your drawings. Reflections in water are often blurry and moving, so we don't see all the details that we see in the actual objects. Focus on blocks of colour in your buildings, rather than fine details.