

Landscapes in Perspective

Junior and Senior Kindergarten

Overview

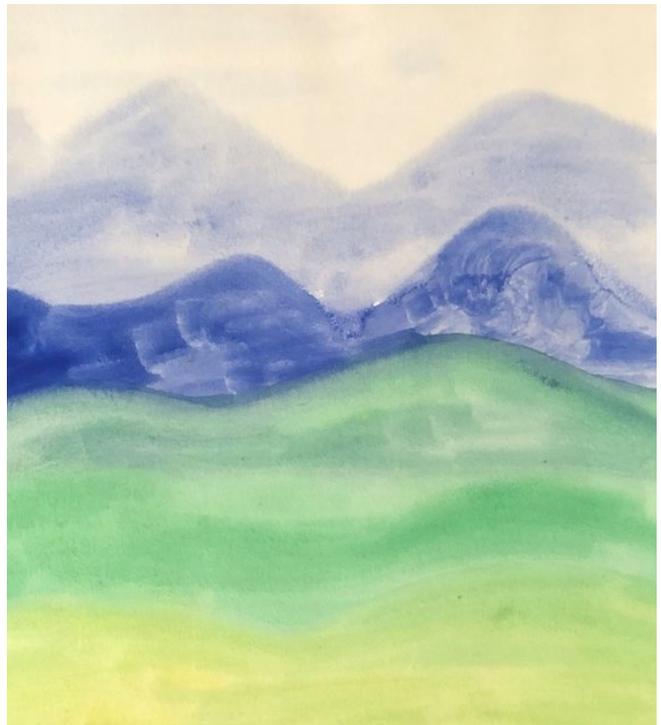
Students will explore the concept of showing distance in an artwork while creating simple landscape drawings or paintings. Rather than looking at the size difference and placement of objects to show distance, they will be introduced to aerial or atmospheric perspective. Using the principles of aerial perspective, students will apply colour in a way that will make some parts of their landscapes look like they are closer or farther away than others.

What you will need:

- Paper
- wax crayons, pencil crayons, oil pastels or chalk in blue, green and yellow

What you can also use:

- watercolour or painting paper
- blue, green and yellow paint
- brushes
- cup of water



What is Distance?

Distance is how much space there is between things or how far apart they are. Even in a flat artwork there are things we can do to show that some objects are farther away than others. One way to show distance in an artwork is called perspective. Aerial perspective is when things look more blue and blurry the farther away they are. You can see this if you look outside. Things like buildings, trees and hills that are very far away look like they are covered in a faint blue fog.

This is because of the sky or atmosphere that surrounds them. We don't see it near us but we do notice it in the distance.



This artwork is part of the Helson Gallery's exhibition, The Collector's Eye. The exhibition, or art show, features artwork by Canadian artists. This artwork was painted by Naomi Jackson Groves and is titled Winter Scene. We are going to make landscapes that show distance.

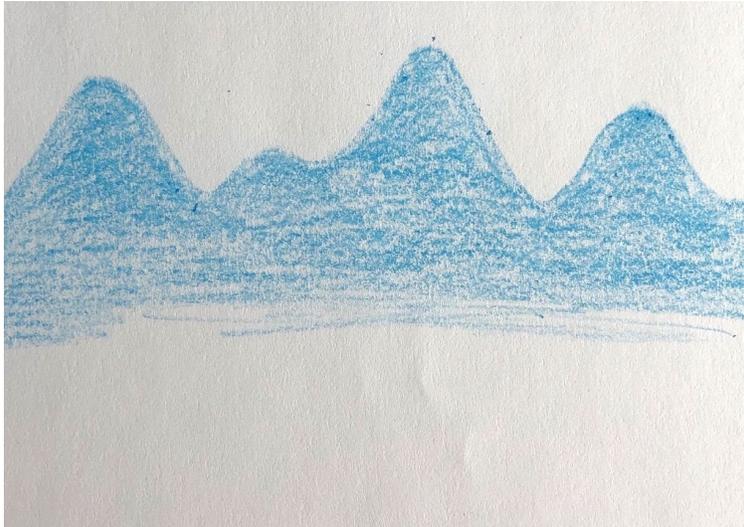
In this painting, do you notice aerial perspective or things getting more blue in the distance?

How do the colours of the trees and mountains change as they get farther away?

How does the size of objects change as they get farther away?

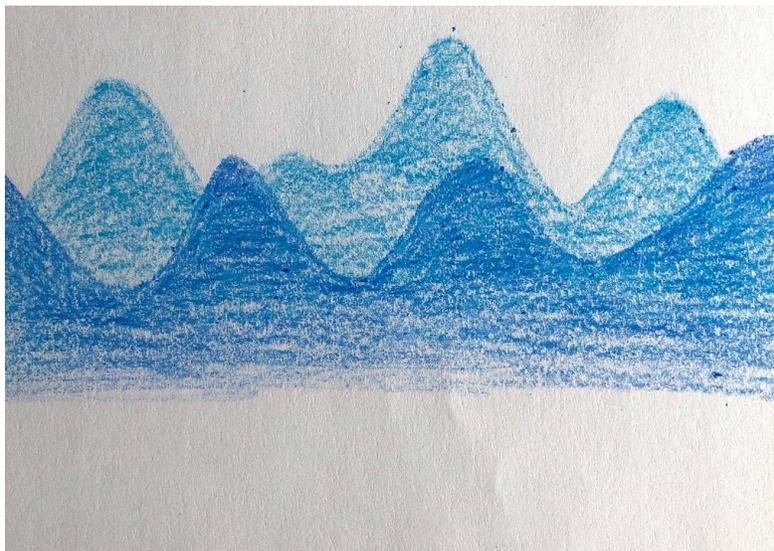
Step 1: Distant Mountains

When creating our landscapes, we are going to start with the things that are the farthest away in your scene. To make your landscape you can use crayons, pencil crayons, oil pastels, chalk or paint. We will begin by making some mountains in the distance. Using light blue, create a long wavy line with steep peaks across the page, near the top. Use the same blue to colour below the line, halfway down the page. If you only have one kind of blue, press very lightly when drawing your wavy line and when colouring. If you are using paint, add water to your blue to make it lighter. Your distant mountains should look something like this:



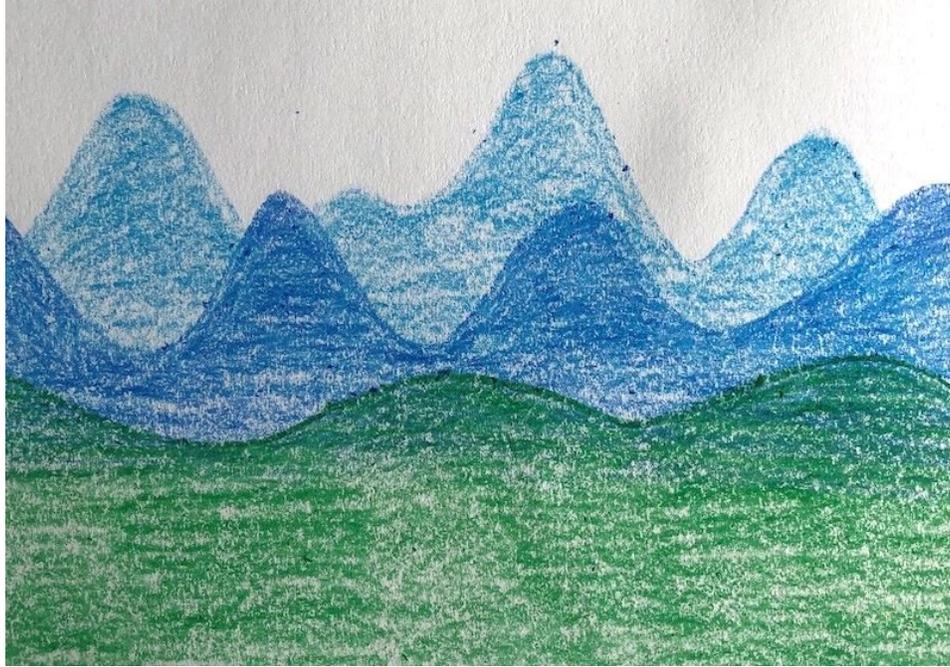
Step 2: Closer Mountains

Now we will create some mountains in front of the ones we just made. Use a darker blue colour or press more firmly with the colour you used for the other mountains. Make a second wavy line across the page, but this time make it a bit lower than your first line. You can go right over your light blue. Colour or paint the area below the line like this:



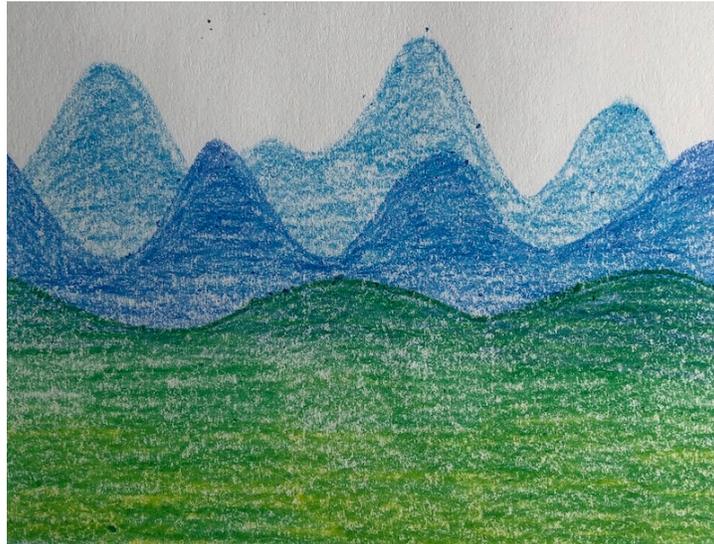
Step 3: Distant Hills

Now we will add some hills in front of our mountains. Use green this time. Make a third wavy line across the page under the mountains. Go right over the dark blue. This time, make the waves less steep. The mountain peaks should be tall and the hilltops should be shorter. Colour or paint underneath the wavy line of the hills to the bottom of the page like this:



Step 4: Grass

We will now make the grass that is closest to the viewer. Use yellow this time. Paint or colour yellow grass from the bottom of the page up just a little bit. Do this right over the green. The brightness of the yellow will help create distance by making the darker green grass of the hills look like it is farther away than the lighter green grass. It should look something like this:



If you like, you can add details to your landscape such as trees and houses. If you do, pay attention to the size of the objects. For example: trees that are close to the viewer should be bigger than trees that are far away. Some things may be so small that you will barely be able to see them!

