

MASTERPIECES of COLORADO

A RICH LEGACY OF LANDSCAPE PAINTING



Use this lesson while viewing the exhibit AND in the classroom .

Weather Report

Grade Level: 1-4

Duration: Two to four 40-50 minute class periods

Materials: Attached handout, landscape paintings, video-taped weather report

Colorado Standards: Reading and Writing: 1,2,3,4,5; Science: 1,4; Geology: 3; Visual Arts: 1,4

DESCRIPTION:

This lesson is designed to allow students to express their observations about weather based on visuals, in this case, landscape paintings. By using the attached handout, students will predict the weather conditions in several of the *Masterpieces of Colorado Landscape* paintings. Upon returning to the classroom, groups of three or four children will work together to write and present a weather report based on information gathered from one painting.

PROCEDURE:

(Three class lessons)

1. During a whole-class discussion, brainstorm words to describe different types of weather: rain, snow, sleet, sunny, cloudy, etc. Discuss how we use visual clues to decide what the weather will be. Generate a list of vocabulary words to be used when viewing the *Masterpieces of Colorado Landscape* exhibit.
2. When viewing the exhibit, students will use the attached worksheet to “predict” and/or report the weather in several of the paintings based on visual clues. Use the included a chart or create a graph that shows how many paintings depict scenes from winter, summer, spring, and fall (or if the season is not clear from the visual representation).
3. Back in the classroom, students will watch a video of one or more weather reports from television. Stop the video several times for discussion. List the items that are included in the weather report such as temperature, cloud cover, wind speed, levels of precipitation, and predictions for future weather. Students will work in groups of two to four students to create a weather report based on a landscape painting. Use a different piece of art for each group of children. The groups should write their report and present it to the class using “weather words” and predictions about upcoming weather.
4. Groups will present a two or three-minute weather report to the rest of the class. Teachers can videotape the weather reports for future viewing by the class.

ADAPTATIONS:

Older children can include more detail and research for a group weather report. Students can research record highs and lows on certain dates to add to the report. If students know the location of a painting, they can expand their predictions for the state as a whole based on geographical features that could account for temperature and moisture variations.

EXTENSIONS:

Extend the scientific investigation about weather by learning about thermometers. Practice reading the temperature in different environments such as outside, inside, in the school cafeteria, etc. Students will gain an understanding of temperature by recording the highs and lows each day for two or three weeks at a time. The current temperatures can be compared to highs and lows during different times of the year. For example, compare summer and winter; spring and fall, etc. Students can use their knowledge of temperature to predict the temperature in the landscape paintings and include temperature in their weather reports. Students can create a graph of the weather observed in the landscape paintings or temperatures over a certain period.

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Name _____

Weather Report

Directions: Write the name of the painting and make a tally mark under the season that best describes when the painting was created.

Name of Painting	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring

Add your tally marks: _____

