A Fall Landscape with a Torn Paper Tree

By: Carolyn Martin

Grade Level: Can fit any grade but instructions and examples are from a grade one classroom.

*Project will probably take two art sessions.*

Objective:

* Draw and define a landscape
* Identify foreground and background
* Identify the horizon line
* Identify warm colors

Supplies:

* Drawing paper
* Pencil and Eraser
* Crayons or pencil colors
* Scraps of brown, orange, yellow, red, and green construction paper
* Glue
* Optional: pictures of various painted landscape scenes

Lesson:

1. Discuss a landscape. Show samples of several landscapes. Call attention to the horizon line and the fact that it appears where the sky and land meet. A landscape artist does not leave empty white space between the land and sky. Talk about things in the foreground and how they differ in size from things in the back ground. If the view out your classroom window yields a nice landscape, help them to see these things in real life.
2. Discuss what warm colors are. Why do warm colors make us think of fall?
3. On a sheet of drawing paper (in the portrait position) have students draw a horizon line somewhere on their page. They should decide if they want a lot of sky or a lot of land and draw their line accordingly.
4. They may add other items to their landscape such as mountains, clouds, birds, butterflies, a road, a house, fence, etc. Let them use their imaginations but instruct them to keep the center fairly clear or their tree will cover it up.
5. Use crayons (first grade) or colored pencils (older grades) to color their landscape. Instruct them in how to color the sky and land in one direction horizontally.

*End of first art session.*

1. Give each child a brown construction paper scrap (about 2x4”). Have them draw a trunk shape, cut it out, and glue onto the foreground of the landscape.
2. Tear pieces of scrap yellow, brown, orange, red, and green construction paper into small pieces. Glue to tree trunk to make the tree top. Add a few leaves to ground.