

Foreground/Background

Finished Art:

A layered picture using vellum and pastels.

The Art Technique being taught:

Layers. *Foreground and Background*

Why?:

At this age many kids draw a line for the ground and then place every object in one plane whether it is a house, mountain, or flower. This lesson introduces the concept of layering objects to create a story or point of view.

Docent Box contains:

Laminated images of a Window, a Tree, and a Child.

Images of artwork with clear foreground and background.

White construction paper

1 sheet of vellum per child (plus extra scraps for learning)

Black construction paper for framing

Pastels

BVEF stickers

Lesson explanation cards to go home with students.

Instructions:

Leader: Have the children sit on the “reading rug” for the introduction.

1: What is Foreground/Background?

Show the children the pieces of Artwork. Ask them to identify objects in the background and objects in the foreground. Point out how the scale changes. A mountain might be the same size as a person to show that the mountain is far away. A house may only be a part of a house because it is so close.

2. How can Foreground/Background tell a story?

Show the children the laminated cut-outs in different layers. Depending on how the objects are layered, they tell a different story and show a different view.

- Tree / House / Child - A picture of a child looking out a window from the *outside*
- Child / House / Tree - A picture of a child looking out a window from the *inside*
- Child / Tree / House - A child playing outside.
- Tree / Child / House - A child playing hide and seek!

3. Examples of how to easily create Foreground/Background. (today's artwork)

Now show the example artwork from the bin. Show how the background was drawn on construction paper and THEN the foreground was drawn on the vellum. Encourage them to think of the complete picture they want to draw. They should plan to draw what they already LOVE to draw (family, robots, horses, etc) Today there will be two parts: The background will just be a landscape and then LATER they will add the people, robots, flowers, trees, etc. It is important that they wait to draw the foreground parts. If they draw a person on the construction paper, that person will be in the *background*.

Additional Volunteers:

Take the introduction time to place 1 sheet of construction paper at each desk. Disperse the pastels so all kids have access. The scraps are for practicing.

Encourage the kids to only draw a landscape on the construction paper. Things that are far away will be at the top of the paper and very small. As the kids finish their landscapes, you can hand them their sheet of vellum to add their foreground. Encourage them to frame their picture with a tall tree or something that is large off to one side on the vellum. Also encourage them to ground the people on the foreground.

Volunteers attach the white construction paper to the black construction paper and a BVEF sticker to the back. Attach the vellum only at the top to create a hinge. This will allow the kids to show off what they learned to their parents.

Clean-up:

Please note: if any pastels are smaller than 1cm. Place those in the ziplock bag to be re-purposed.