

Analyzing Paintings about Architecture in a UNESCO city

Grades: High School
Subjects: Visual Arts, English–Language Arts
Time Required: 2-Part Lesson
One to two class periods

Lesson Overview

Students will examine two paintings and discuss the use of architectural elements and vantage points in the paintings. Referring to the elements of art, students will also examine how three-dimensional shapes are transformed into two-dimensional forms in paintings, as well as the use of indoor space vs. outdoor space.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- identify architectural elements in paintings
- compare different vantage points in paintings
- discuss methods of representing a three-dimensional building in a two-dimensional painting
- write an essay exploring the use of spaces or perspective in a painting

Artwork



View of the Grand Canal and the Dogana by Bernardo Bellotto

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Materials

- Reproduction of *View of the Grand Canal and the Dogana*, Bernardo Bellotto
- Background Information and Questions for Teaching about *View of the Grand Canal and the Dogana*
- Student Handout: “Architecture Vocabulary”
- Student Handout: “Elements of Art”
- Student Handout: “From 3D to 2D: Analyzing Paintings about Architecture”
- Paper (8½” x 11”)
- Pencils and/or pens

Lesson Steps

1. Show students the reproduction of *View of the Grand Canal and the Dogana* by Bernardo Bellotto.
2. Have a class discussion, prompting students with the questions and activities from the Background Information and Questions for Teaching about *View of the Grand Canal and the Dogana*.
3. Then pass out copies of the student handout “From 3D to 2D: Analyzing Paintings about Architecture,” along with paper and pencils and/or pens.
4. Discuss with students the writing activities in the student handout “From 3D to 2D: Analyzing Paintings about Architecture.” Tell students to follow the instructions on the handout and complete the activities.

Assessment

Students will be assessed on their

- understanding of architectural elements in paintings
- comparison of different vantage points in paintings
- discussion of methods of representing a three-dimensional building in a two-dimensional painting
- exploration of spaces or perspective in a painting as discussed in an essay

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Standards Addressed

Common Core Standards for English Language Arts

WRITING

Text Types and Purposes

1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

Production and Distribution of Writing

1. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Comprehension and Collaboration

1. Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.



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