

LESSON PLAN

AT-HOME ART PROJECT: Endless Flower Fields

INSTRUCTIONS



INSPIRATION: The Flower Fields at Carlsbad Ranch

When the Carlsbad Flower Fields bloom in the Spring, they are a spectacular sight of brilliant flowers stretching as far as the eye can see. The bright colored ranunculus flower is grown in a variety of colors ranging from white and yellow to vibrant purples and oranges. The fields are split into sections and rows by color, which gives a unique view and amazing display of the flowers natural color and beauty across the rolling hillside. The annual burst of incredible rainbow color is a stunning visual experience and has become part of Carlsbad's local heritage.

MATERIALS NEEDED FROM HOME:

- White Paper (any size)
- Ruler or Straight Edge
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Colored Pencils

ART PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Participants will experiment with using a vanishing point in their artwork as they create a landscape interpretation of The Carlsbad Flower Fields.

VOCABULARY:

- **Vanishing Point:** the place where parallel lines appear to come together in the distance.
- **Silhouette:** the image of a person or an object represented as a solid shape of a single color, usually black, its edges matching the outline of the subject.

PROMPT QUESTIONS:

- Have you ever visited the Carlsbad Flower Fields before?
- What would it make you feel like to be surrounded by so much color?
- While looking at the photo above, what do you think about? Why is that?

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ART MAKING PROCESS:

Step 1:

- Imagine if you are standing at the edge of The Carlsbad Flower Fields. What would you see? What do you notice? Can you see the end of the field of flowers? What is off in the distance, on the horizon?

Step 2:

- Begin with your white paper, ruler, pencil, and eraser. Your paper can be horizontal or vertical, it is up to you. With your pencil and ruler, draw a horizon line from edge to edge, about 1/4 of the way down from the top of your paper. Put a dot on this line, it can be anywhere on the line that you want - this is your vanishing point. Next, draw lines from the bottom and sides towards that vanishing point. Make six rows or more – these represent the rows of flowers. Next to each line you just drew to create the rows of flowers, use your ruler and draw another line about ¼" away at the edge of your paper – these areas will represent the space between each of the rows of flowers. (Fig. 1)

Step 3:

- On your horizon line (the line that you drew your vanishing point) think about what is off in the distance in your work of art? What images are on your horizon? Draw these outlined images on your horizon line. Ideas might be houses, buildings, palm trees, bushes, cars, a train, or you can leave it blank. These images do not need a lot of detail, just an outline as they will be a silhouette when colored in. (Fig. 2)

Step 4:

- Use your colored pencils to add color to your rows of flowers. Think about the bright colors of the ranunculus flower, and how each row is a single color. Coloring each row very lightly using one color, solid at first. Go back over the color adding simple and quick petal shapes and shading, being mindful to draw larger flowers and petals at the bottom of your art (the foreground, where images are closer to you) and smaller flowers and petals toward the top of your art (the background, where images are further away from you) to give the impression of perspective and depth. Color the space between the rows dark green or brown to represent the leaves or ground that separate each row of flower color.

Step 5:

- Color in the sky of your artwork, adding any details you would like. Use black or dark grey to color in your images on your horizon line to have them indicate a silhouette. (Fig. 3)

Step 6:

- Take a moment and hold your artwork out at arm's length, is there anything else you want to add to your work of art? More color in certain areas? More flower details? Do you feel that there is something missing? When you are satisfied with your composition, your artwork is complete!

POST PROMPT QUESTIONS (reflect):

- What do you like best about your artwork?
- What does your artwork make you feel?
- What do you want others to think about when looking at your work of art?
- What did you learn from creating this work of art?

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ART PROJECT STEP-BY-STEP EXAMPLE:



Fig. 1

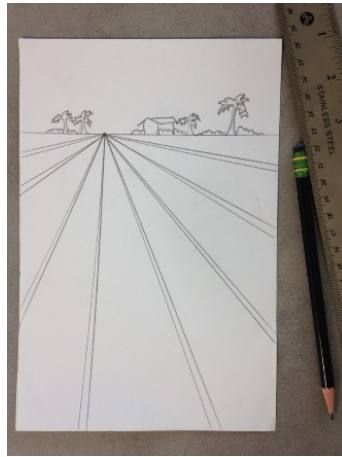


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

EXTRA FUN!: Create another Endless Flower Field work of art, but this time draw the horizon line in the lower half of your paper. Continue with the process. Compare your two works of art. How are they different? Why?

SOURCES:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Flower_Fields