



Shapes are all around

GRADES 1-4

Try spotting the different shapes you see around your house and in nature. When you can see the shapes an object is made of, it's easier to draw.

Explore landscapes and shapes with the following activities:

ART ACTIVITIES

Cloud watching

On a nice day, look out your window or lie down in the grass and watch the clouds drift across the sky. Do you see any fun shapes in the clouds? Be sure to use your imagination. Paint what you see.

Create a landscape out of shapes

On coloured paper, draw a variety of shapes in many sizes. Triangles, squares, rectangles, circles and ovals are good shapes to start with. Cut them out. To create a base for your landscape, find a large piece of paper. Draw a horizontal line across the middle, this becomes your horizon line. Start placing the shapes in the landscape. Big triangles could be mountains, little ones could be trees, an oval could become a lake—get creative! When you're happy with where you've placed the shapes, stick them to the paper.

If you don't have coloured paper, use white paper and markers or paint to colour the shapes first, then cut them out and paste on the big paper.

For an added challenge, try using shapes of various sizes in the foreground, middle ground, and background, to create a sense of depth.



Bertram Brooker

Untitled Landscape

late 1930s-early 1940s, oil on canvas
Gift of Dorothy Scruton on behalf
of James Floyd Scruton, 2017
(60-002)

If you'd like to extend the lesson beyond visual art, here are some other activities:

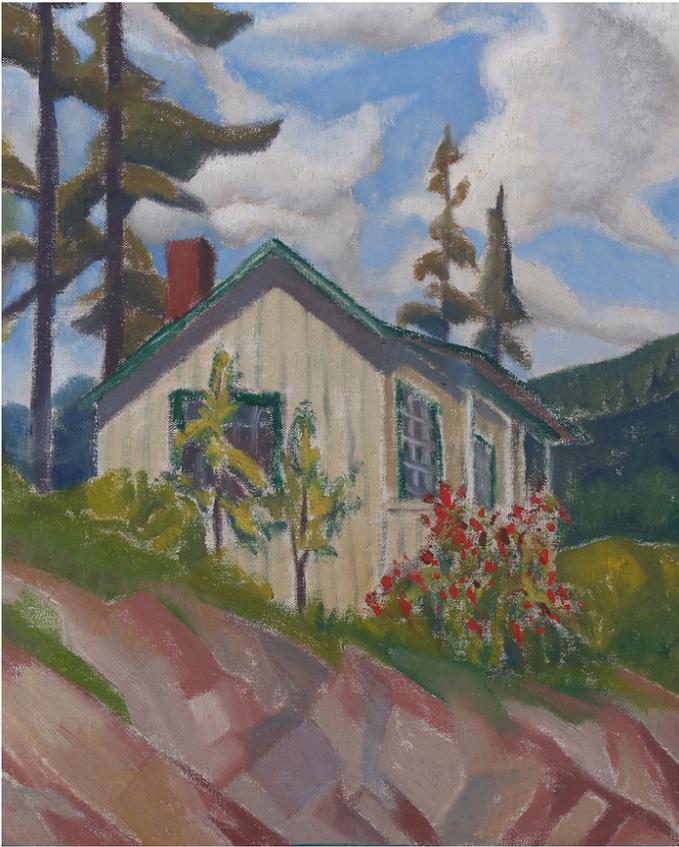
Explore your local landscape through imagination

Close your eyes and imagine walking around your neighbourhood. Describe what you see, feel, hear and smell. Do you see farms, trees, buildings, parks or streets? Can you hear cars driving or dogs barking? Can you smell a freshly cut lawn or someone making food on the barbecue? Imagine feeling the wind in your hair or the sun shining on your face as you walk around.

Think about what things in your neighbourhood are alive. Some examples of living things are trees, animals and grass. Think about what things in your neighbourhood aren't alive. For example, sidewalks, rocks, street signs are nonliving things. Make a list of all the things living and non-living in your neighbourhood.

Dance with the clouds

The clouds in Bertram Brooker's landscape look like they're moving. With a bit of imagination, they could be dancing. Turn some music on and try moving like the clouds in the painting. Look outside—are there clouds in the sky? How do the big fluffy clouds move? What about the thin wispy ones?



Bertram Brooker

Untitled Landscape (detail)

late 1930s-early 1940s, oil on canvas

Gift of Dorothy Scruton on behalf of James Floyd Scruton, 2017

(60-002)

Search for shapes

Go on a scavenger hunt for shapes around your house and neighbourhood. Create a checklist with the following shapes: square, rectangle, circle, oval and triangle. Try and find three objects that are each of these shapes. Write the name of the objects on your checklist, sketch the shapes on the page alongside.

GLOSSARY

Landscape: Landscapes are pictures of the outdoors and they usually show things that are in nature such as trees, hills, rivers and mountains, but sometimes they also feature man-made things like houses. Landscapes often feature a foreground, background and middle ground which are used by an artist to create a sense of depth.

Horizon Line: In art, the horizon line runs across the paper or canvas from left to right. It represents the viewer's eye level and shows where the sky meets the ground or water.

Foreground: In a landscape, the foreground is the part that appears to be closest to you. It usually is at the bottom of the picture. The objects in the foreground appear larger than other objects.

Background: The background in a landscape is the bit that looks the furthest away. Often artists put mountains or trees in the background of their landscapes. Because they're supposed to be far away, they are smaller in size than the "close" objects in the foreground or middle ground.

Middle ground: The middle ground is the space in-between the foreground and the background. Objects in the middle ground are bigger than the background, but smaller than the foreground.