

AGNES LEARNS



Explore the past, present and future

GRADES 7-8

Paintings like Jane Drummond's *View of Kingston's City Hall* can give us insight into what cities used to look like. They are important artifacts that allow us to see into the past and explore what life was like.

Explore the past and imagine the future with these activities:

ART ACTIVITIES

Draw a dynamic skyline

Look at the skyline of where you live. You could either look at a photograph or go with your family to a good lookout. What do you see? Are there buildings, trees, lakes or rivers? Do you notice any buildings (houses, hotels, restaurants, skyscrapers)?

Using a pencil, make a rough sketch of your chosen skyline. Think about the shapes, colours, lines and textures you see. Then, use watercolour (like Drummond did) or other materials such as pencil crayons, markers and oil pastels to add colour to your sketch. Once you've completed your picture, imagine the skyline in 100 years. How do you think it will change? What do you think will remain the same?

Jane R. Drummond, *View of Kingston's City Hall*, 1912, watercolour, pencil, paper, on cardboard. Gift of Miss Mary E. Medd, 1981 (24-006)





Make a map

Explore what Kingston has looked like over the past 150 years with the [Snapshot Kingston](#) tool from the City of Kingston.

Make a map that shows where you live and what it looks like in 2021. What will you include in your map? First, sketch out the important geographic features, like bodies of water, forests and hills. Then, add other elements like parks, trails, streets, houses, schools, and other buildings that represent where you live. Finish your map by adding colour, giving it a title, a compass pointing north and a legend.

Write a postcard to the future

Cut a piece of cardstock or heavy paper into the shape and size of a postcard. On the back, write a letter to the future describing what life is like right now. Reflect on the activities you like to do, who you like to do them with and what is going on in the world around you. Mention topics and issues that are important to you. On the front, make an illustration that complements your message. Use watercolours or other materials available to you.

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

Make a playlist

Come up with a list of 10 songs that remind you of your home. You may choose to include songs you associate with a certain time in your life, or songs made by musicians from your area. Share your playlist with your family or a friend.

Learn about local plants and animals

Start a nature log. Record the names of plants and animals that you see around your home and where and when you saw them. You may want to borrow a nature guide from the library to help you identify species.

Research: are there any animals or plants that have left your area? Are there any animals or plants that are new to your area? What is causing these changes?

Research the past

Research what life was like in the 1910s in Kingston and Canada. You can use the internet to find lots of resources, as well as visiting the local library, museums, or talking to elders in the community!

We know there were very few well-known women artists in Canada in the early 1900s.

Research what it was like to be a woman artist, such as Drummond, at this time. Come up with a list of five other women artists from the early 1900s. What other voices were not represented in the art community?



Jane R. Drummond

View of Kingston's City Hall (detail), 1912
watercolour, pencil, paper, on cardboard
Gift of Miss Mary E. Medd, 1981
(24-006)

GLOSSARY

Skyline: an outline of the place where the land (hills, forests, buildings) seems to meet the sky.