



## Colour and texture in landscape

GRADES 4–6

Mittimatalik is the setting for Doris McCarthy's landscape painting *Pressure Ice – Pond Inlet*. Explore the elements of art, colour and texture in landscapes with the following activities:

### Art Activities

#### Use the colour and texture to create a snowy landscape

Find an image of a snowy landscape that inspires you and paint a picture of it. Instead of depicting snow using just white paint, observe the other colours found in the highlights and shadows. You might see purples, blues, greens and more. Observe the different textures in the snow. Is it fluffy, smooth, jagged or icy? Think about the different brushstrokes you can use to create the texture.

## Paint en plein air

McCarthy often painted outside (or en plein air) to help her capture the essence of a landscape. Practice your own en plein air painting by finding a landscape outside in your community that you want to paint. Try to capture the mood and feeling of your place in that moment.

## Explore texture with different mediums

Find a small item in nature to re-create such as a rock, stick, fallen leaf or flower petal. Draw your item, adding lines and shapes to depict texture. Next, mold a piece of clay into the shape of your chosen item and use a toothpick to add as many texture details as you can. How was adding texture to your clay sculpture different than your drawing? Which one did you find more challenging? Consider repeating this activity with other materials such as watercolour paint and pastel.

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

### Write a sensory poem (language)

What does winter feel like? Using the five senses, write a poem describing how you might feel painting a winter landscape in the Arctic like McCarthy. What would you see, hear, smell, taste, and touch?



### Research the environment of Mittimatalik (science)

Research some characteristics of the Arctic climate in Mittimatalik. To start, try to answer the following questions: What flora and fauna thrive there? How has climate change affected the arctic landscape and its inhabitants?

### Research the community of Mittimatalik (social studies)

Since long before European settler contact, Mittimatalik (Pond Inlet) has been cared for and protected by Inuit communities. Research and record information about the communities of past and present. What is it like living in an Arctic climate?

## Glossary

**Colour:** An element of art made up of three properties: hue (red, green, blue, etc.), value (how light or dark it is), and intensity (how bright or dull it is). Colours can be described as warm or cool.

**Medium:** The material that an artist uses to create art.

**Texture:** an element of art that refers to the way things feel to the touch or look as it may feel if touched.

**En Plein Air:** This means “in the open air” in French. En plein air painting is the act of painting outdoors and experiencing the landscape.