



School Visits

2019–20 Grades
K–12

Online Learning – DIY:
Collage Landscape

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Artists of all ages have looked to our city and all its beautiful locations for inspiration in their artmaking. This week's step-by-step creation is a **Collage Landscape**.



About this resource

Thanks for accessing our Online Learning resources! These step-by-step instructions will help you and your family to express their own creativity and build connections to the Ontario Arts Curriculum.

About us

Harbourfront Centre School Visits is an experiential, hands-on learning program that offers curriculum-focused, inquiry-based programs that explore all aspects of contemporary arts and culture. Every year, we host 26,000 students onsite for meaningful engagements with the arts. We trust you will find the step-by-step guide outlined below will allow creativity to shine through!

Suggested Grade Range:

Grade 2 and up

Curriculum Links:

The Arts – Visual Arts

Key vocabulary words

- **COLLAGE:** The term comes from the French verb coller, which means “to glue.” Collage is the process of cutting and gluing different materials together to make an artwork.
- **FOREGROUND:** The part of a picture or scene that is closest to the viewer and usually closer to the bottom of the composition. The objects in the foreground are larger, the details are defined or clear and the colour is most vibrant.
- **MIDDLEGROUND:** The part of the picture or landscape between the foreground and the background.
- **BACKGROUND:** The part of the picture that is furthest away. The objects in the background are smaller in size with less detail, and the colour is less vibrant, lighter or greyer. Note: Dividing your landscape into

foreground, middleground and background helps us understand space in a two-dimensional work of art and gives the piece a sense of depth.

- **ATMOSPHERIC PERSPECTIVE:** Refers to how we see objects in the distance. Things in the background or in the distance look blurry, with unclear or nonexistent details, and the colour is not as vibrant (more greyed or cooler).
- **WARM COLOURS:** Red, yellow and orange. Think about fire colours. Warm colours appear to come forward in space and are often used in the foreground to make it look closer.
- **COOL COLOURS:** Green, blue and violet. They appear to recede in space or make the background look larger and further in the distance.
- **LANDSCAPE FORMAT:** Refers to a horizontal composition.
- **PORTRAIT FORMAT:** Refers to a vertical composition.
- **COMPOSITION:** Refers to the placement of all the parts of the picture or the way they are put together.
- **SYMMETRICAL:** A symmetrical shape, object or image has two halves that are exactly the same.

Required Materials

- **SCISSORS**
- **GLUE**
- **MAGAZINES & A VARIETY OF PATTERNED PAPER:** wallpaper, construction paper, tissue paper
- **PENCIL**
- **SKETCH PAPER**
- **OPTIONAL HOLE PUNCH**

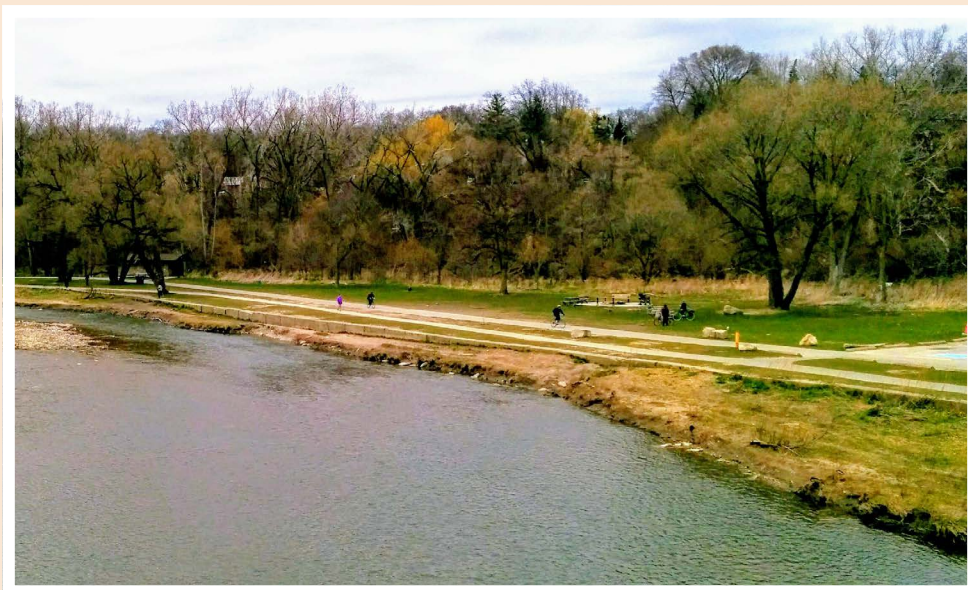
Step-by-step instructions

Step 1:

Find an inspiring scene to use as a starting point for your collage landscape. You may have a special place, like a favourite tree close to your home or a beautiful scene visible from your window, that you would like to place in your landscape. You may also want to use a photograph from a place that is special to you.

In the scene, notice the space that is closer to us is more detailed, colours are brighter and objects are bigger. This is called the **foreground**. Look further beyond

the **foreground**: details are not as defined, colours are not as bright and objects are smaller. This is called the **middleground**. Look as far back as you can see: notice details are blurry and colours are muted. This is called the **background**. An important element of landscape is the **horizon line**. A horizon line is a horizontal line that runs across a scene or landscape where the sky separates the land or the water. Sometimes the horizon line is hidden by buildings or trees.



Step 2:

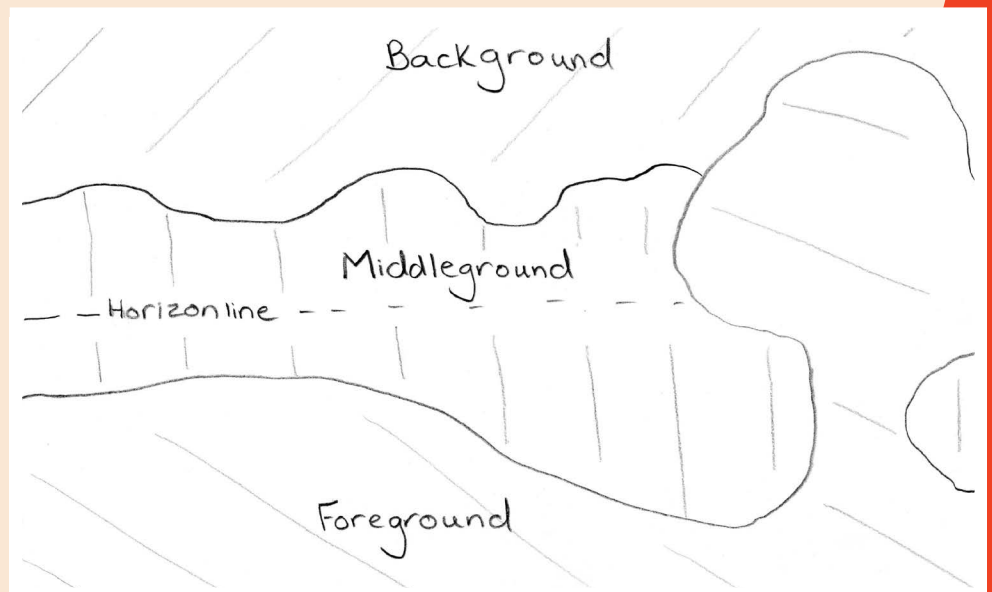
Sketch your scene. You may want to take a picture using a cell phone to use as a reference when you return home. Decide whether you would like your composition to be composed as a **landscape format** (horizontal) or a **portrait format** (vertical).

Note: The scene you start with may change during the process of making your collage landscape.



Step 3:

Re-draw and simplify your sketch for your main collage pieces. The sketch has been reduced to a very simple line drawing. There are basically three lines. There is one straight line – the horizon line – and the other lines are curvy, diagonal and round. Think about an interesting composition. Try to add some diagonals or curvy lines to make your composition more dynamic.



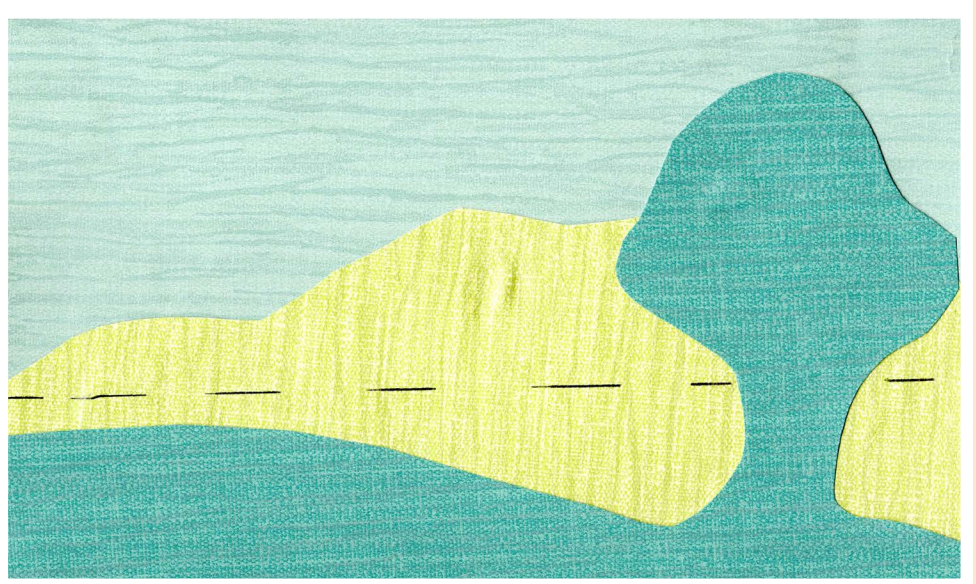
Step 4:

Look around your home for old magazines, old picture books or a variety of patterned paper (construction paper, wallpaper, tissue paper, wrapping paper) that you have permission to cut up. Go through the magazines and tear out

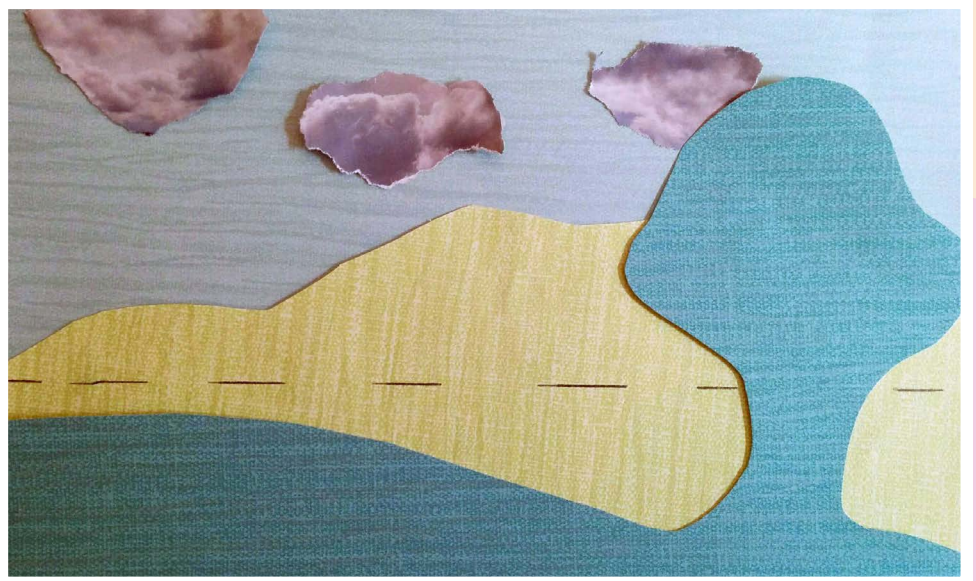
coloured pages. Create a palette by separating the paper into piles. One pile for each colour. You are going to use these different papers to cut and paste them together to create your collage landscape.

Step 5:

- Select three large pieces of coloured paper: one for your background, one for your middleground and one for your foreground. Each layer will be made into a shape to represent the base of your collage.



- Start with your **background** piece first. You may choose a less intense, faded, cool colour (blue, purple and green) for your background. Your background piece of paper does not have to be cut or torn. It could be a full piece of paper.



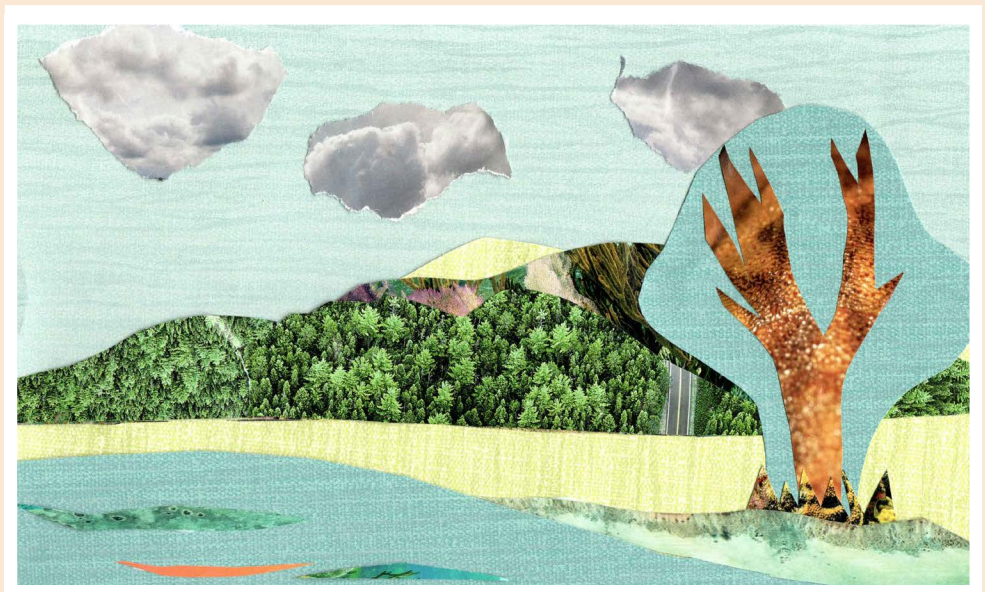
Step 5: (continued...)

- The next layer is your **middleground**. You may want to use a mid-tone colour. It may be a patterned piece of paper. Cut or tear the top edge of your paper (you don't need to shape or cut the bottom of the middle ground paper because it will be under the foreground piece of paper). Glue the middle ground on top of the background.



- Your final layer is the foreground. This layer is at the bottom of the composition. The colour is the most vibrant. Cut or tear the top edge of your foreground, and glue it onto the middle ground.

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Note: When attaching the foreground, middleground and background, just use a tiny bit of glue on the sides to hold them in place. This will allow you to experiment with putting shapes behind and in front of the layers.



Step 6:

Now we will be adding the details of our collage landscape. Experiment with the placement of the pieces of paper before you glue them onto the base.

Note: This is your landscape. Have fun!

Start with your first layer, the **background**, at the top of your composition. Things in the background or in the distance look blurry, with unclear or nonexistent details, and the colour is not as vibrant (more greyed or cooler). This is called atmospheric perspective. You may

want to use muted, cool, grey-blue or blurry pictures for your sky or background layer. You could cut the paper or tear the paper. Tearing creates a delicate, soft edge. Tissue paper would be a nice addition and will create colour mixing between the layers. When you are happy with your choices, glue the background to the top of the base paper. You may want to use intense vibrant colours in your background. Remember, it is your creation.

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The next layer is the **middleground**. Before gluing, experiment with your paper choices. You may want to use more detailed patterns, textures and brighter, more intense colours than in the background layer. Then experiment with the placement of the middleground layer. Are you going to show the horizon line?

The **foreground** is the layer closest to the bottom of the composition and the part of the landscape that is closest to the viewer. The objects in the foreground are larger, the details are defined or clear, and the colour is most vibrant. You may want to use the most detailed pattern or texture and the warmest or most intense colours in the foreground.



Extensions:

- Create a landscape from your imagination using the collage technique.
- You may want to use paint, pastel or markers to add textural marks and details to your landscape.

