**David Hockney: Perspective, Maps, and Your Personal Landscape**

**Essential Question** How do artists use perspective to tell a story about a place?

**Grade** Kindergarten

**Time** 60 minutes

**Art Concepts** Map, landscape, aerial view, perspective, one-point perspective, pattern, abstract, resist

**Materials** One sheet of writing paper, watercolor paper or heavy drawing paper, crayons or oil pastels, watercolors or dried-out markers soaking in cups of water to release the ink, a cup of water, a brush, newspaper to cover your table, paper towel or a rag

**Artwork in Focus** [Mulholland Drive: The Road to the Studio](https://collections.lacma.org/node/247320), 1980 by David Hockney

**Talking about Art** Let’s look at *Mulholland Drive: The Road to the Studio*. What do you see? Does the artwork look like the real world? Why or why not?

***Mulholland Drive: The Road to the Studio*** is a painting. When you look at the painting, parts of it are seen from above and other parts are almost like a **map**. David Hockney changes his viewpoint throughout the painting: Sometimes we see the hills and the road straight on; sometimes we see them as if from above. The painting is very large—it takes up almost an entire wall at the museum! If you were to stand in front of the painting, what would you notice first?

Hockney is interested in doing something new with this painting: challenging the idea of **one-point perspective**. Artists use **perspective** in their paintings as an artistic tool that helps them create depth. For example, a painting that looks like you’re seeing it as if you’re standing on the ground in the real world is one-point perspective.A painting that looks like you are flying over the scene below has an **aerial view**, or bird’s-eye perspective. Hockney believes that seeing with the human eye catches more than one perspective at a time. In his art, seeing is active, moving, and changing, like your eyes are doing a dance with what they are seeing. His goal is to make your eyes feel as if you were truly *inside* his painting—seeing more than one perspective at a time.

This artwork is a **landscape**, which means that it is mostly nature. This painting is of Hockney’s daily road trip to work! His work is being a painter, and he paints in his studio.

What kind of mood do the colors make you feel? How do you think he feels about this trip to the studio?

Hockney uses bright colorsand turns the flowers, plants, and trees into **abstracted patterns**. The artist’s road-trip story is told in a more exaggerated vision of a colorful, happy Los Angeles.

Though Hockney was born in the northern part of England, his artwork is associated with L.A. He always depicts the city in a bright, joyous way.

**Making Art** Today you are going to make an art piece about a road trip inspired by Hockney. You are going to imagine your favorite car trip—for example, to a family member’s house, to see your best friend, or to a special place you love to visit. It can be short or long; you choose. Like Hockney, you will use bright colors and patterns in your artwork.

1. On your trip, remember five things that you pass along the way—it could be a store, a person, a building, a sign, or even a tree. Draw these things you pass on a piece of paper, so you don’t forget!
2. Using your crayons or oil pastels, draw the trip from your home, on one side of the paper, to the favorite place, on the other. The road can be seen from above, like Hockney’s. You can add patterns in the trees, bushes, and buildings. Do not put any words in the artwork. Don’t color in your drawing. Leave lots of white paper for your paint! And don’t forget to add the five things that you pass along the way!
3. If you *don’t*have watercolor or old markers, then you can continue to fill your road trip top to bottom with bright colors and patterns using oil pastels or crayons. If you *do* have watercolor or old markers, then paint *over* the line drawing with the paint in bright, wet strokes. You can even brush clean water on the surface over the crayons or oil pastel and then brush paint into the pools of water! Let the paint bleed! Water **resists** the oils in the crayon or pastel, so the lines will shine right through!
4. Since there are no words in your art piece, you can name it based on the place the road trip takes you to or how the picture makes you feel.

**Reflection** Can you describe the difference between aerial perspective and worm’s-eye view?

Can you make art that has more than one perspective?

What kind of perspective did you use today?

**Curriculum Connections** California Art Standards for Public School—Visual Arts

K.VA:Cr2.3: Create art that represents natural and constructed environments. K.VA:Cn10: Create art that tells a story about a life experience.

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