





Imagination Land: Transforming Your Landscape

Laura Decker

Think About

- Landscapes:** Why do artists make work portraying landscapes? How many different kinds of “scapes” can you think of? Where is your favorite place? What is the landscape like there?
- Imagination:** Do you ever daydream? What do you think about? If you could jump into your dreams, what would you see, smell, taste, feel?

Look and Discuss

Start by looking at **View of Salt Lake Valley** by Henry Culmer.

- Landscape:** What kind of scape do you see here? What do you see that makes you say that? This painting is titled *View of Salt Lake Valley*. What do you imagine when you think of Salt Lake Valley? How would you describe Salt Lake’s landscape to someone who has never seen it before?
- Color:** Describe the colors you see.What mood do they project? How do you think the artist felt about Salt Lake Valley?
- Style:** How would you describe the style of this painting? Is it real or imagined? What clues does the artist give you? Why did the artist choose to paint it the way he did? When do you think this painting was made? How would it be different if it were a sculpture?

Next look at **This is the Place** by Susannah Kirby.

- Landscape:** Describe what you see in this painting? Do you consider this a landscape? Why or why not?
- Story:** Landscapes can be real or imagined.They can also tell a story.What story do you think this artist is telling? How does the story end?
- Artist:** This painting is titled *This is the Place*. How do you think the artist feels about Salt Lake Valley? What do you see that makes you say that?

Compare and Contrast

- These two paintings both depict Salt Lake Valley, but are very different. How are they the same and how are they different?
- Why did each artist choose to paint Salt Lake Valley in the style they did?
- How would each painting be different if it were painted in the style of the other one? What if they were black & white? What if they were 3D sculptures? What would your version of the Salt Lake Valley look like?

Create a narrative collage of your landscape!

- Think about your landscape.What is your favorite part of your landscape? What do you see, smell, taste, feel? Why do you like it? Write responses to these questions in a sketchbook or on a piece of paper.
- You will be making a collage about your landscape.Think about how you want to depict your landscape.What colors will you use to describe the mood? Will you include animals, people, buildings? Is it going to be the real landscape, or an imagined version of it?
- Provide students with a variety of drawing materials and colors of construction paper to make a collage or drawing about their landscape.
- 3D Design Extension: Make a cut paper diorama in a shoe box. Paint the inside and outside of the shoebox for the background of your landscape. Cut out objects from construction paper to include in your landscape.
- Language Arts Extension:Write a short story about their landscape and why they depicted it the way they did.

Wrap up

Have students share their landscape collages in small groups and discuss the differences and similarities in their landscapes. Display them around the classroom.