

CHARCOAL LANDSCAPE

Art Concept: Value, shape, space

Grade: 8 and up

Materials:

Vine charcoal

Kneaded eraser

Blending stump

12"x 18" white drawing or charcoal paper

Workable fixative

Final fixative

Procedures:

1. Find a landscape photograph with a background, mid ground, and foreground.
2. Outline the major shapes first, lightly with the charcoal. These shapes include the horizon line, outline of trees, mountains, etc.
3. With everything outlined, start shading in the objects. Pay close attention to detail in values. The sky could vary from dark to light.
4. Use your kneaded eraser to erase any unwanted marks. Shape and manipulate the eraser to get into small areas, lighten the values, or "draw" shapes by erasing the charcoal.
5. Spray workable fixative to any finished areas to prevent smudging. Also spray fixative to areas you want to darken by layering the charcoal. Make sure to follow the directions on the fixative can, and spray outside. After spraying, you will have difficulty in erasing any charcoal, so be sure that the area is finished before you spray.
6. Add values and detail, starting with the background first, then mid ground, and lastly, foreground.
7. Use a wide range of values, blend with a blending stump, where necessary.
8. When finished with the drawing, spray with the final fixative.