

Lines Can Show Feelings

Grade 2 – Lesson 2
(*Art Connections*, Level 2, pgs. 18-19A)

Big Idea

Horizontal and vertical lines can create a calm or peaceful image.

Learning Targets and Assessment Criteria

Target 1: Selects specific line directions (Arts EALR 1.1 *Elements of Art: Line direction*)

Criteria 1: Uses primarily horizontal and vertical lines.

Target 2: Interprets expressive use of line direction. (Arts EALR 3.1 *Arts as Communication: Expressive line*)

Criteria 2: Describes and explains (verbally and in writing) how horizontal and vertical lines create a calm feeling in a composition.

Target 3: Creates the illusion of 3-D depth on a 2-D surface. (Arts EARL 1.1.2 *Principles of Organization: Implied depth*)

Criteria 3: Implies depth with high horizon line (more than halfway up the composition).

Local Art References



Landscape, 15th century
Artist unknown, Japanese
34.103
Seattle Art Museum
(NOTE to Teacher: See **Art Background** section at end of lesson for more information about these works of art.)



Landscape, 1660-1730
Huang Ding, Chinese
56.50.4
Seattle Art Museum
(NOTE to Teacher: See **Art Background** section at end of lesson for more information about these works of art.)

Looking at Art Questions

(Note to Teacher: Show both landscape paintings above and Monet's, *Poplars on the Epte* from *Art Connections*, Level 2, pg. 18.)

1. What directions of lines do you see in these paintings?
2. Where do you see horizontal lines? Vertical lines?
3. We saw before that artists can combine lots of different directions of line to create a dynamic or energized feeling. What words would you use to describe the mood of these paintings? Why do you think so?
4. When artists use mostly horizontal and vertical lines in one composition, it can create a calm or peaceful feeling. Which of these paintings seems the most calm or peaceful to you? Why do you think so?

5. Depth is when an artist makes you think some things are far away from you in the picture. Which painting do you think suggests the greatest depth? Why do think so?
6. Where the land meets the sky is called the horizon line. When you put the horizon line more than half way up the picture, it can suggest great depth, because there is space to show lots of things (mountains, water, trees) in front of it. Which painting has the highest horizon line?

Art Making Activity

(See the **Create** section *Art Connections*, Level 2, pg. 19)

Make a Calm Landscape

How can you create a calm or peaceful landscape using mostly horizontal and vertical lines?

1. Close your eyes and picture a peaceful place you have been before. In your mind's eye, look for the parts of the landscape that are horizontal or vertical.
2. In your sketchbook, do at least two different thumbnail sketches of the calm place you imagined. Be sure to use lots of horizontal and vertical lines.
3. Place your horizon line more than halfway up your sketches to suggest depth in your pictures.
4. Before making a painting, a Chinese or Japanese scholar painter would practice and practice his brushstrokes. Holding the brush straight up and down like a bamboo tree reaching for the sun, let's see how many different kinds of marks you can make with brush and ink.
5. Compare your brushstrokes with your neighbor. Find out how your neighbor made his/her most interesting strokes.
6. Using your best thumbnail sketch as a guide and mostly horizontal and vertical lines, paint your own calm landscape.

Each Student Needs

- Calendar pages of landscapes for inspiration
- A sketchbook
- A sketching pencil (2H are good light pencils for sketching)
- A 6x9 piece of rice paper (on which to practice brushstrokes), and an 8x11 piece of rice paper (on which to paint composition)
- A sumi brush
- A piece of black felt
- A paper towel

Tips for Teachers

Before Class

- Set each place with an 8x11 and 6x9 piece of rice paper, and a sumi brush

For every pair of students, prepare:

- Containers with about 2 T of black sumi ink
- Water containers (one for every two students, filled half-full)
- Stack of paper towels
- Have some photographs of landscapes available for students who need visual inspiration.

Every Pair of Students Needs

- A small container with 4 T of black tempera paint sumi ink
- A container of water

Vocabulary	
Horizontal	Horizon line
Vertical	Depth
Sumi (“ink” in Japanese)	

Re-Teach Suggestion:

Make two different non-representational drawings – one chaotic (diagonals, curves, zigzags), and one calm (horizontal, verticals). Write “chaotic” or “calm” on the back of your drawings. Can your buddy tell which one is which?

Local Art Reference (chaotic)



White Night, 1942
Mark Tobey
62.78
Seattle Art Museum

Local Art Reference (calm)



Qur-an Page, late 8th century
Anonymous Islamic artist
47.100
Seattle Art Museum

Each Student Needs

- A sketchbook
- Drawing pencils (practice chaotic and calm marks in sketchbook first)
- Three 6x9 pieces of black paper (one on which to practice conté crayon marks, and two on which to make final compositions: chaotic and calm)
- White conté crayon
- Tissue (to make a finger ghost to blend conté crayon)
- Trays for passing out conté crayons

Self-Assessment

Name _____

How did you use horizontal and vertical lines to create a calm composition?

I used horizontal lines for _____

I used vertical lines for _____

The mood I was trying to express was _____

Reflecting on Our Art (from *Art Connections*, Level 2, pg. 15A)

- **Describe:** Where did you use horizontal lines in your composition? Where did you use vertical lines?
- **Analyze:** How did your brushstrokes add to the calm effect of your picture?
- **Interpret:** What kind of mood were you trying to express? Where do you think your landscape captures that mood best?
- **Decide:** Where would you like go in your landscape? What would you like to do there?

Art Background for *Landscape* by unknown 15th c. Japanese artist, and for *Landscape* by 17th c. Chinese artist, Huang Ding

The Chinese term for landscape painting is *san shui*, which literally translates as “mountains, water,” since all good landscapes, according to Chinese literati (scholar painters), should include these two elements to represent the yang/yin duality of all of life. A well rendered landscape should express a balance visually between yin/female/water/mists and yang/male/rock/mountains, and therefore reveal the underlying harmony of the universe.

One of the highest forms of painting is what the ancient Chinese called a “mind landscape” or “mountains of the mind.” This phrase refers to the ideal state of mind that a scholar tries to emulate in his painting, poetry and music. It is a natural, but elusive state of mind that is spontaneous, creative and endlessly varied like nature itself. Like water tumbling down a mountainside, the painter of the mind landscape both pursues his creative intent with all his mastery of his art form, but also responds to the chance occurrences in the ink and brush.

Traditional Chinese and Japanese master ink painters practice brush and ink techniques for years before creating paintings that sometimes take no more than days, hours or minutes to paint. The ink and brush can suggest all the textures in nature, from thin washes suggesting rising veils of mist to short choppy strokes suggesting a scraggly pine tree on a bluff. Not only do Chinese landscape painters study brush techniques for years, but they also study nature itself by quietly observing the land around them until they have memorized the specific features, textures, plays of light and shadow, and effects of water and air of a beloved place. When an artist begins to paint, s/he creates from this remembered inner landscape, and then responds to the natural occurrences of the ink, paper and brush to create his/her finished, harmonious composition.

Assessment Checklist

Student	Uses primarily vertical and horizontal lines	Describes and explains (verbally and in writing) how horizontal and vertical lines create a calm feeling in a composition	Implies depth by placing horizon line more than half way up the composition	TOTAL 3
1.				
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30.				
31.				
Total Points				
Percent Comprehension				

Teacher Notes:

Letter Home

Dear Family,

*Today we learned that artists can use **horizontal and vertical lines** to create a **calm feeling** in a work of art. We looked at a landscape painting by Claude Monet and two ink paintings, one by an anonymous 15th century Japanese artist, and one by the 17th century Chinese painter, Huang Ding. All three artists used horizontal and vertical lines to make peaceful compositions.*

*We also learned that artists can **imply depth** in their paintings by placing the **horizon line** – where the sky meets the land – high up in their compositions. We made our own peaceful ink paintings of a special quiet place with implied depth by using these ideas.*