

Sketching From Home

Like the Group of Seven

Lesson plan prepared by Bess Forrestall for the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.

Suggested Grade/Age Levels

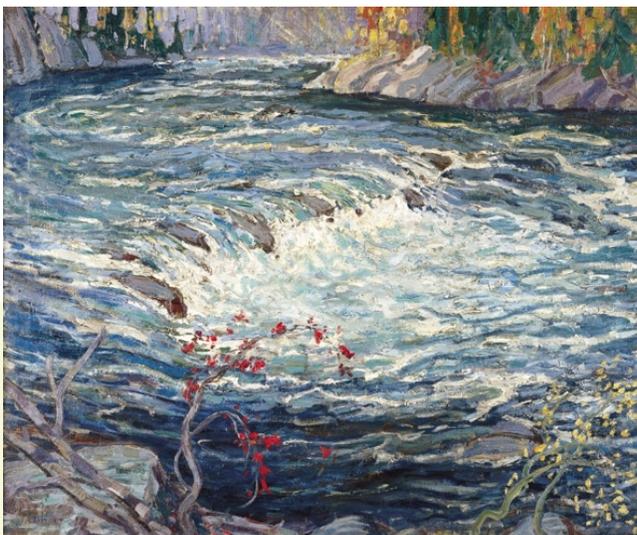
Suggested age to work independently: grade 4+ otherwise can be modified for younger grades

Subject Areas

- Visual Arts

Introduction

The purpose of this activity is to create an engaging way for students to experience drawing from life and to learn about the Group of Seven's process. Students will experience 'sketching', ie: a preliminary drawing process. They will learn about some basic sketching skills and they will learn about toning their ground.



Arthur Lismer
Sackville River, 1917
Oil on canvas
Purchase, 1919

Set Up:

- Set up a space in your kitchen (or studio!) where you can paint your paper
- Set up a seat (or area to sit) either by your window or in your backyard. Find a comfortable seat with a good view and be sure to have all your drawing materials (pencils, markers, pens, etc.) nearby!

Materials:

- Cardboard
- Paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- Tea bags
- Turmeric
- Highlighter
- Jars/cups
- Warm water
- Paintbrush
- Any and every drawing material you can find! (eg: pencils, pens, highlighters, pencil crayons, crayons, watercolour paint, graphite sticks, white out)

Process:

- Begin by cutting your cardboard into a variety of shapes and sizes
- Cut your paper to the same sizes as your cardboard
- Prepare your tape by putting the tape on your clothing and ripping it off a few times to remove the 'excess stickiness'
- Tape down the paper by taping along all sides of your paper (ie: along all the edges)
- Mix your "paint" :
 - option a) put 4 black teabags in a jar with 3 tablespoons of warm water
 - option b) let a highlighter sit in 3 tablespoons of water for an hour (or more)
 - option c) mix 1 tablespoon of turmeric with 3 tablespoons of warm water
 - option d) talk with an adult to see what is in your kitchen and try mixing your own 'paint'
- Paint your entire sheets of papers
- Let your paper dry
- Gather your drawing supplies and set up a seat near a window or in your backyard
- Start drawing what you see! Start by drawing in big forms and cover your entire paper with the shapes that you see.
- Start to draw in details once you have all the big forms drawn in
- Once you have your drawing underway use white out, or white paint, to bring out the highlights (ie: the brightest parts) of your drawing

- Share your drawing online and tag the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia on social media