

Practicing Perspective - A Drawing Project (Grades 3 – 5)

Objective

Students create a drawing that includes the use of one-point perspective to illustrate the illusion of space.

Time

30 – 40 minutes

Materials

- Drawing paper
- Pencils with erasers
- Rulers
- Coloring materials

Process

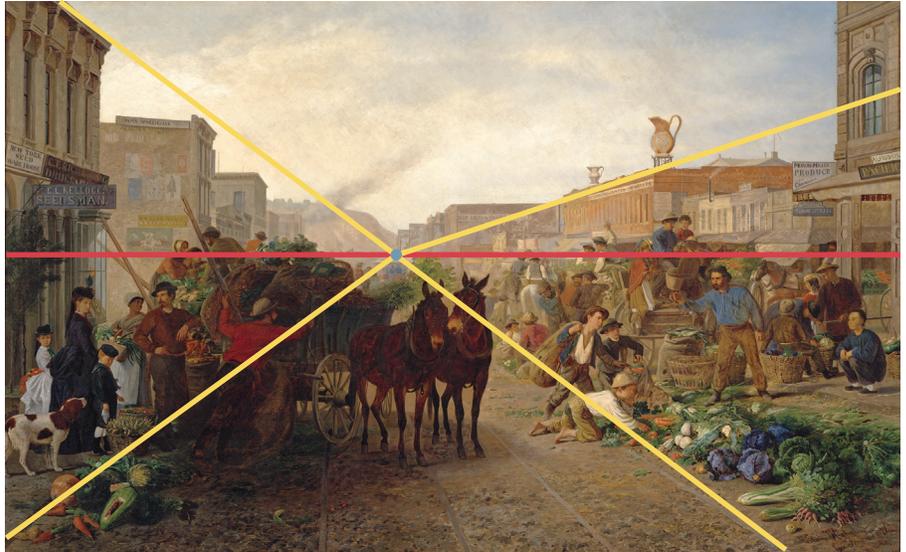
Discuss

William Hahn's painting *Market Scene, Sansome Street, San Francisco*, is full of activity. What type of setting does this painting illustrate? Does it show a large space or a small space? What do you see that makes you say that? If you could enter this painting, would you be able to walk to the mountains in the background? How long do you think that would take? In this scene, what is something that is close to us, the viewer? What is something that is further away? How do you know that?

Introduce the concept of one-point perspective with your students. One point perspective is a way of drawing objects that give the illusion of things appearing smaller as they get further away. It is commonly used in landscape or architectural drawings that illustrate a large space. These drawings have an underlying structure that includes a horizon line, one 'vanishing point' that rests on the horizon line, and diagonal lines that converge at the vanishing point. There are many great resources available online to help explain and illustrate the concept.

Plan

Use the attached diagram to show the structure of *Market Scene*, which includes the horizon line (red line), vanishing point (blue dot) and corresponding diagonal lines (yellow lines). If possible, project it onto the whiteboard and invite students to trace over each line, so they can feel and see the structure of the composition.



Create

Using a sheet of drawing paper, pencil and a ruler, create your own scene using one-point perspective. Begin by drawing a horizon line from one side of your page to the other. Add a vanishing point near the center of the line. Draw a diagonal line from each of the four corners to the vanishing point. For more of a challenge, add additional diagonal lines by pivoting the ruler around the vanishing point. Use the structure to illustrate your scene, adding buildings and/or trees. Once your scene is built, color it in, and then erase the guiding pencil lines.