

Ontario Grade 7 Visual Arts Curriculum Connections for the Activity:

Exploring the Colour Wheel Through Landscapes Inspired by the Group of Seven

D1: Creating and Presenting

D1.1: Expressing Feelings, Ideas, and Issues

- Connection: Students create a landscape inspired by the Group of Seven, focusing on how colour conveys emotions and mood. They use colour theory to evoke specific feelings about the landscape, mirroring how the Group of Seven expressed their connection to the Canadian wilderness.

D1.2: Principles of Composition

- Connection: Students explore how to use colour (analogous, complementary) to create unity, balance, and harmony in their landscape. They also learn to consider repetition and contrast for emphasis, following the *rule of thirds* when composing their artwork.

D1.3: Elements of Design

- Connection: Students apply the elements of design—colour, line, texture, and value—to communicate ideas inspired by their chosen Group of Seven painting. They experiment with water activation to blend colours, simulating techniques used in professional watercolour paintings.

D1.4: Techniques and Problem Solving

- Connection: The activity incorporates various techniques, such as layering and wet-on-wet blending, encouraging students to explore how materials (watercolour pencils and water) can achieve different effects. They experiment with pressure and water to address design challenges, such as achieving smooth transitions between colours.
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D2: Reflecting, Responding, and Analyzing

D2.1: Interpreting Art

- Connection: Students reflect on how the Group of Seven used colour to convey themes such as the beauty and majesty of the Canadian wilderness. They also discuss their own choices, comparing them with their peers to understand varying interpretations of the same subject.

D2.2: Explaining Design Choices

- Connection: Students analyze their use of complementary and analogous colours to create depth, harmony, and contrast in their work, demonstrating an understanding of the elements and principles of design.

D2.3: Interpreting Symbols and Style

- Connection: The activity includes a discussion on the symbolic use of colour by the Group of Seven to evoke emotions about nature. Students incorporate similar symbolic choices into their work.

D2.4: Self-Assessment and Feedback

- Connection: The reflection and sharing session encourages students to critique their work and identify areas for improvement, fostering their ability to evaluate their artistic choices.

D3. Exploring Forms and Cultural Contexts

D3.1: Art Reflecting Beliefs and Traditions

- Connection: The introduction highlights the Group of Seven's contributions to Canadian art and cultural identity, fostering an understanding of how art reflects societal values and traditions.

D3.2: Influence on Identity

- Connection: Students learn about the historical significance of the Group of Seven and how their work influenced Canadian identity. By creating landscapes inspired by these artists, students explore the role of art in personal and cultural expression.

Fundamental Concepts:

Elements of Design

- **Colour:** Students explore primary, secondary, analogous, and complementary colours through the colour wheel and their application in landscapes.
- **Value:** They experiment with layering and blending to create depth and variation in intensity.
- **Line and Shape:** In their sketches, students use bold, simplified lines and shapes reminiscent of the Group of Seven's style.

Principles of Design:

- **Unity:** By using analogous colours and repeating elements, students ensure that their landscape feels like a whole, connected scene rather than a disjointed collection of unrelated parts. Each element contributes to the overall composition without competing for attention, making the artwork feel unified.
- **Harmony:** The careful application of the principles of colour theory (such as complementary colours and blending) ensures that the various parts of the artwork work together harmoniously. The blending of colours and use of the rule of thirds helps balance the composition, avoiding any one part from overpowering another.