



Learning & Engagement

Harmony, Balance, and Creativity in the New Mexico Landscape

This lesson can be modified to accommodate various age groups.

Lesson Overview

Students will learn how to combine color, texture, and emotion to create a work of art that reflects upon the New Mexico landscape.

Lesson Objectives

The student will know and be able to:

- Combine color and texture to represent an idea or emotion.
- Create a work of art that communicates an idea.
- Explore the idea of caring for the land we inhabit through art.

Materials, Resources and Preparation

- Artwork images from Tewa Nangeh/Tewa Country exhibition
- 8.5 x 11 mixed media paper
- Sticker buttons
- Multi-colored pipe cleaners
- Colorful tape
- Glue sticks
- Markers
- Scissors

Activity #1: Compare & Contrast (15 minutes)

Begin by offering a brief introduction of the exhibition: Tewa Nangeh/Tewa Country honors Tewa people, art, culture, and landscapes and highlights how sense of place makes up an important part of our identity. How does where we live contribute to who we are?

Begin by showing the students two artworks currently in the Tewa Nangeh/Tewa Country exhibition – one work by Georgia O'Keeffe, and the other by a Tewa contemporary artist (for example: Spring, 1984 by Georgia O'Keeffe and T'si Pin, 2025 by Arlo Namingha). Ask the students: what do you see? Have them analyze each artwork one at a time and speak aloud about observations on color and texture. Then, ask them: how does this artwork make you feel? What do you think the artist is trying to say about where they live?

After analyzing each image thoroughly, ask the students to then compare the artworks. How are the artworks alike? How are they different? Ask students to point out similarities and differences. Then, ask the students: what is your favorite part of each artwork? What stands out to you the most? Conclude by telling the students about each artwork and how this relates to their analysis, and brainstorming as a group one last question: how can each of us do our part to take care of the land we live in?

Activity #2: Landscape Collages (45 minutes)

Have students select prompts from a jar then use the collage materials provided to create their own abstract landscape collage. Each student can pick their own individual prompt or the class can pick one prompt to do together.

- Draw/collage your dream animal friend to help guide humans to create a peaceful world.
- Imagine a future where flowers run the world. What would this look like?
- Make a postcard from a future New Mexico where the land feels fully loved and respected.
- If the land here could talk, what do you think it would say to us?
- If animals had the microphone for once, what joyful message would they send to humans about living together?
- What gift would you give back to the land to say thank you?
- Imagine a future where nobody 'owns' the earth, but we all take care of it together. What does that look like to you?
- If the desert had a perfume, what would it smell like? Make the label for the bottle.
- Design a little spell, charm, or sticker that helps heal the planet.
- If the mountains could dress up, what outfits would they wear to celebrate us taking care of the land?
- Draw or collage a silly new plant or cactus that only grows when humans and nature are finally in balance.

Conclude by initiating a "gallery walk" or having students share and explain their creations with the class.



Spring, 1948. Oil on canvas, 48 1/4 x 84 1/4 inches). Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. Gift of The Burnett Foundation. 1997.6.28.



Tsi' Pin (Pedernal), 2025. Arlo Namingha. Mixed media, stone and wood. Courtesy of the artist and Niman Fine Art.



Pelvis Series, Red with Yellow, 1945. Georgia O'Keeffe. Oil on canvas, 36 x 48 inches.
Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. Extended Loan, Private Collection. L.1997.3.4



Disaster #8, 2025. Michael Namingha. Silkscreen and enamel on canvas. Courtesy of the artist.