

Our NC Mountains

An Art Lesson for Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grade (Week of June 1st).



The geography of North Carolina falls naturally into three divisions – the **Appalachian Mountains** in the west (including the **Blue Ridge** and **Great Smoky Mountains**), the central Piedmont Plateau, and the eastern Atlantic Coastal Plain. We are fortunate to live in the Piedmont (middle) area of the state. For us, it is a short day trip to our beaches in the east and our mountains in the west.

As summer quickly approaches, you and your family may be planning a trip to our Appalachian Mountains. These mountains provide an unlimited amount of hiking, camping and biking opportunities during the summertime. In winter, the NC mountains are a wonderful destination for skiing and sledding.

You will be creating a work of art inspired by the North Carolina Mountains. To give this artwork a realistic look, you will show what's called "**Atmospheric Perspective**." The farther away something is the lighter the value and the bluer the color. This phenomenon is known as "**Atmospheric Perspective**". Things appear to fade off into the distance because of dust, humidity and air pollution in the **atmosphere**.

Here are some examples of what Atmospheric Perspective can look like:



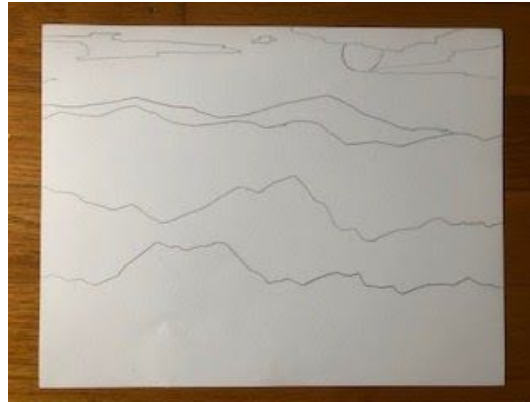
Materials Needed:

Plain white paper (any size), pencil, eraser, variety of crayon colors or colored pencil.

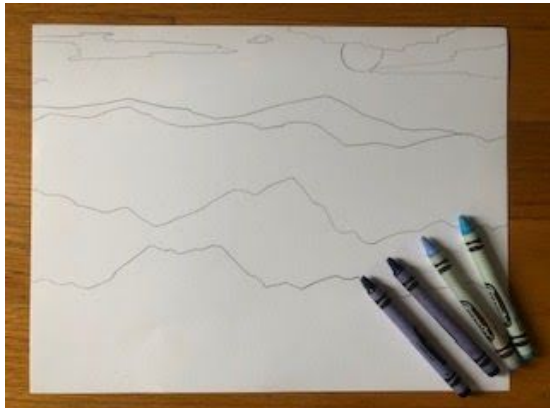
Follow the Steps Below:



Gather all materials.



Lightly draw 3-4 rough, zig-zag lines across your paper for mountains using pencil. Then add sky elements (sun, clouds, rainbow...).



Pick out 3-4 values or kinds of blue.



Beginning with the darkest blue. Color in below the rough line closest to the bottom. Use the blue crayon slightly lighter than that one to fill in the space above. Continue until all of your mountains have color, dark to light, from bottom to top.



Color in your sky elements.

Things to think about:

- Make each zig-zag look different from the next.
- Don't add a lot of detail. Keep the drawing simple.
- Color slowly and stay in the lines.
- When adding color to the mountains, push hard with your crayon/ colored pencil at the bottom then use less pressure as you work your way up. This way you'll get that "faded" look.
- The overall look of the artwork should be natural. No people, vehicles or other man-made things.
- Choose a sky color other than blue. Pink, yellow, tan or orange will look great depending on whether you are showing sunrise or sunset.
- Will you show a particular season in your artwork?

Vocabulary:

Atmospheric perspective, value, piedmont, elements, realistic, fade, distance.