



### **Trading Places: *Painting Alabama Landscapes***

**Target grade:** 5<sup>th</sup>

**Length:** 2 to 3 - 30 minute sessions

**Enduring Understanding:** People create and interact with places that define, shape, and empower their lives.

**Essential Question:** How does painting landscapes attune people to their surroundings?



**Objective:** Students will use line, color, value, pattern, movement, and linear perspective to create Alabama landscapes.

**Arts discipline:** Visual Arts

**Standards:**

Alabama Anchor Standards 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

Creating 3 - Communicate ideas and images of Alabama landscapes through painting and utilizing elements of art (line, color, value), principles of design (patterns, movement, variety) and one point perspective.

Creating 5 – Identify, describe, and visually document places of personal significance.

**Non-arts discipline:** Social studies; earth science

**Standards:**

Soc Sci. 5.1.1 - locate important geographical features; identify major ports in the U.S. (Mobile)

SCI.5.9.3 – locate sources of freshwater in Alabama

SCI.5.9.4 – locate sources of salt water in Alabama

**Materials and supplies:**

- Drawing paper for practice
- Pencils and erasers
- Images of well-known landscapes in Alabama (beaches, mountains, rivers, etc.)
- Blank artist trading cards
- Acrylic paint: primary colors (red, blue, yellow) + white
- Plastic plates for paint mixing
- Small acrylic brushes and/or small pieces of matboard to use for painting
- Rinsing containers with clean water
- Paper towels

**Prerequisite knowledge arts:**

- know how to mix primary colors to make secondary colors & how to create light values using white.
- know how to use line variety to create patterns and a sense of movement.

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**Prerequisite knowledge – non-arts:**

- discuss important geographical features in Alabama, including major ports, rivers, mountains, etc.
- locate fresh water and salt water sources in Alabama on a state map

**Arts vocabulary addressed:**

line, color (primary & secondary colors), value, landscape, middle ground, foreground, background, pattern, movement, variety, horizon line, one point perspective

**Non-arts vocabulary addressed:**

Alabama Bicentennial (on Dec. 14, 1819, Alabama became the 22<sup>nd</sup> state in the U.S.), geographical features, percentage of freshwater and salt water sources in the state

**Introduction:**

Discuss artist trading cards and the *Trading Places* project in relation to the 2017 Alabama Bicentennial theme of Places.

**Sequence of activities:**

1. Look at images of Alabama landscapes illustrating different geographical features (beaches, rivers, mountains, lakes). Identify freshwater and salt water sources in the state, using a state map.
2. Make preliminary drawings of various landscapes on the practice paper. On each drawing locate the horizon line. Make at least one drawing using one point perspective to create a river or road.
3. Lightly sketch one of the images on a blank trading card.
4. Fill out a name label and glue it to the back of the trading card.
5. Use a brush or pieces of matboard to mix secondary colors (green, orange, purple) from the primary colors of blue, red, and yellow).
6. Mix lighter values of the colors using white.
7. Use a variety of colors and values to paint the landscape on the trading card.
8. Use a small piece of matboard to create pattern lines of grass, water, etc. or brushstrokes to suggest movement in the sky, etc.
9. When the trading card is dry, fill out a name label and glue it to the back of the trading card.

**Fun Variations to Try:**

- Use watercolors for the background, such as for painting the sky, and thicker paint, such as acrylics, for the middle ground and foreground.
- Tear blank cards into smaller sections for middle ground images (mountains, ocean, rivers, lakes, etc.) and foreground images (sand, grass, etc.) and paint patterns on each. When dry, glue to another card.
- Use patterned paper (i.e. Roylco patterned craft paper) to cut out for parts of the landscape.
- Create a border around the trading card using water soluble markers or watercolor pencils. Blend with water on a small brush, if desired.
- Consult the online Encyclopedia of Alabama for more content.

