

# Background, Middle Ground, and Foreground

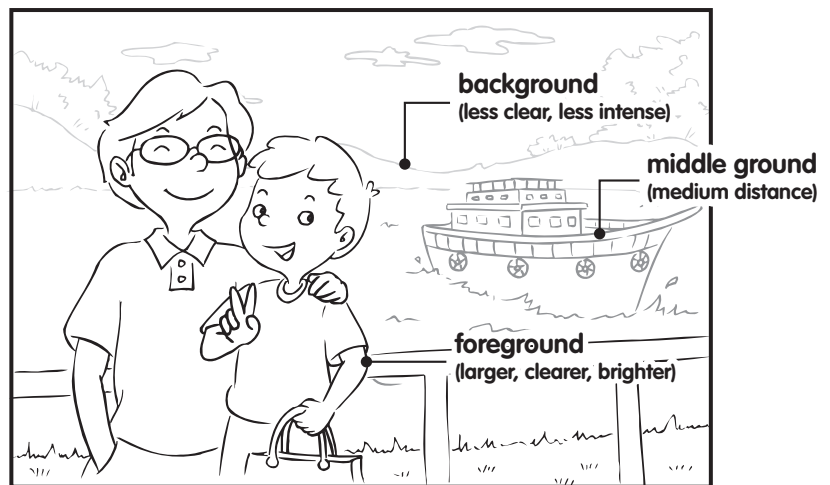
**Objective:** To label the background, middle ground, and foreground, and identify objects in each of these areas in a picture

Looking out of your window, you will see that the world is framed like a picture. Can you see far into the horizon? Are there buildings or trees close by?

The space outside your window can be divided into three sections: background, middle ground, and foreground. Artists use this technique, or their awareness of these sections, to give their work depth.

In a picture, objects **low** or directly in front of us are perceived as closest to us and are in the *foreground*. They are **larger, clearer, and brighter** than those “behind” them.

Objects at a medium distance are perceived as **mid-ground**; they are in the middle of the frame.



Objects farthest from us, in the *background*, are usually **higher** in the picture; they seem **less clear**, and their colours are **less intense** than those in both the foreground and middle ground.

The Group of Seven, a talented group of Canadian artists from the early 1900s, used great contrast between their back, middle, and foregrounds to show depth when painting the seasonal landscapes of Canada.

# Background, Middle Ground, and Foreground

Colour the area indicated for each picture.

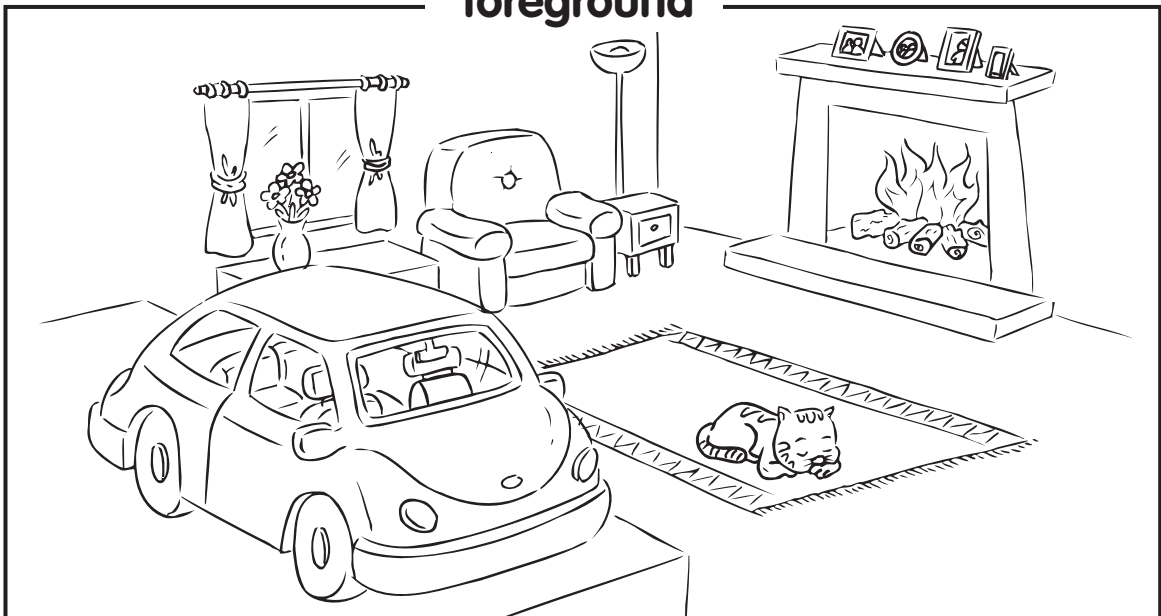
background



middle ground



foreground

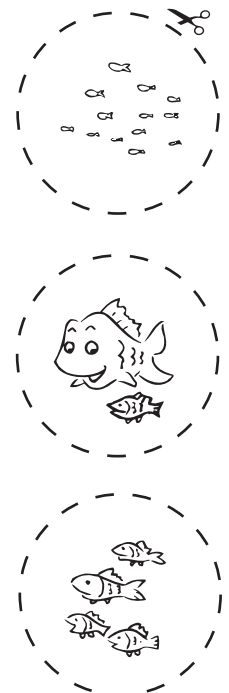
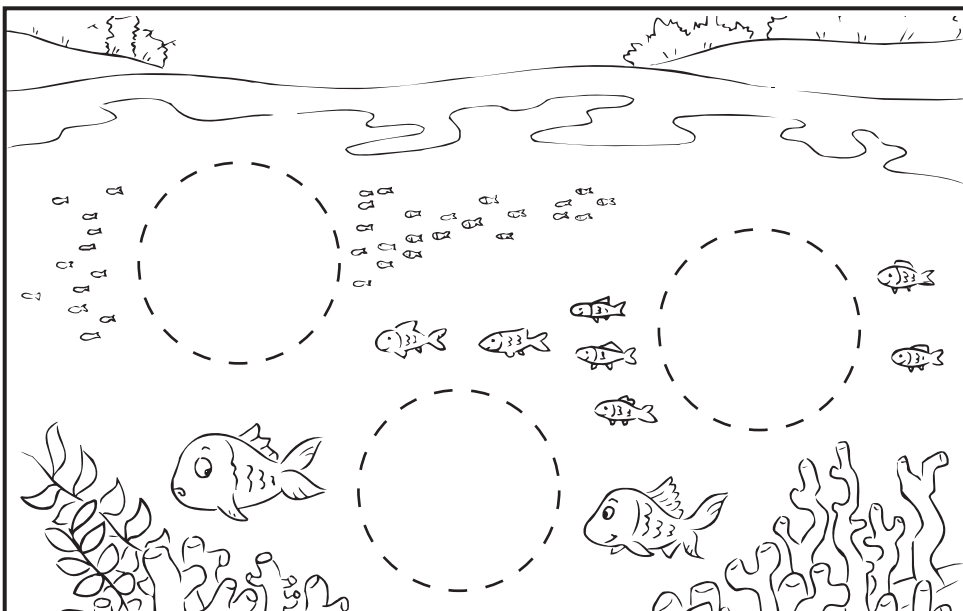
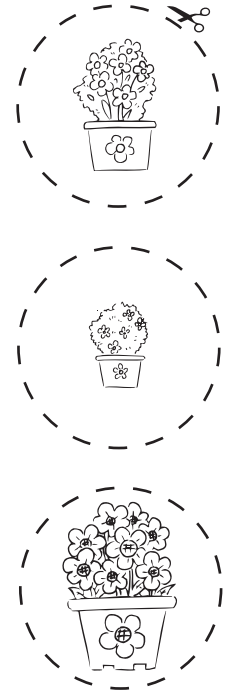
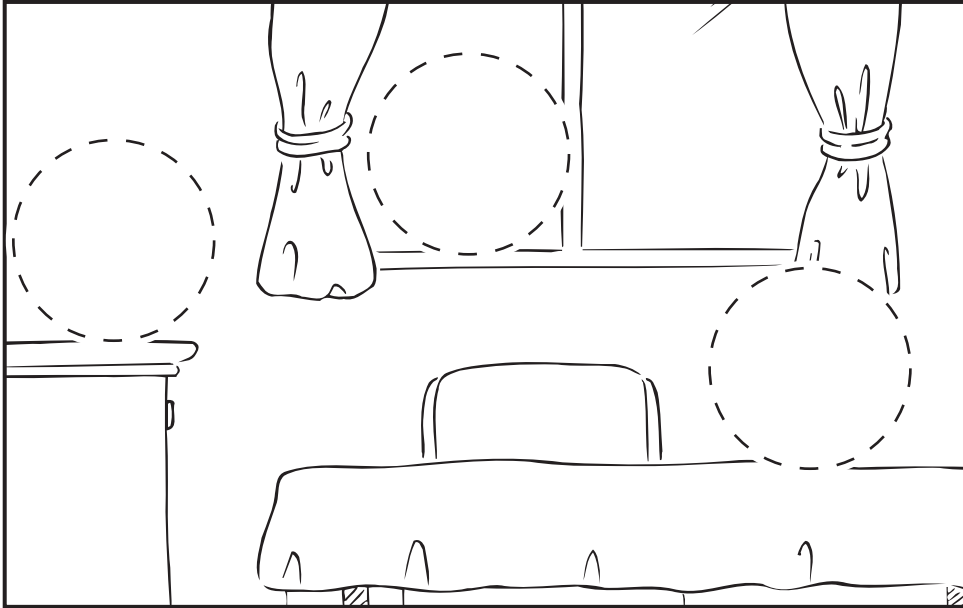


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Background, Middle Ground, and Foreground

Look at the size and detail of the images in the circles. Decide if the image belongs in the background, middle ground, or foreground of the pictures. Cut out the circles and glue them in their correct places. Then colour the pictures.



# Background, Middle Ground, and Foreground

## Group of Seven Landscapes

### Motivation:

To use the knowledge of background, middle ground, and foreground to create the illusion of depth in a landscape

### Materials:

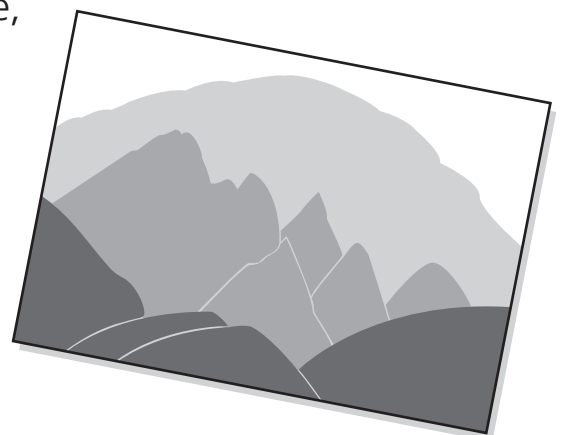
- 11 x 17" white or light-coloured paper
- construction paper of various colours
- pictures of landscapes
- scissors
- glue stick

### What to Do:

- 1** Look through a variety of landscape prints, noticing how the foreground, middle ground, and background are different in colour, position, clarity, etc. Have the students point out objects in each of these grounds.
- 2** Each child should choose one landscape print. Copy the outline of the background on lighter-coloured construction paper and cut it out. This should be placed highest in the frame.
- 3** Look at the middle ground of the picture. Make an outline of this, cut it out, and place it halfway down the page, overlapping the background. This should be done with darker or brighter-coloured construction paper.
- 4** Outline and cut out the foreground and final layer of the picture on the darkest or brightest construction paper. This part should have clear, defined lines and be glued to the front, or bottom of the page, overlapping the middle and backgrounds.

### Follow up:

Why do you think the background is the lightest? How does colour affect the perception of depth in a picture?



Canadian Landscape