

perspective



A C T I V I T Y S H E E T

Walter Baum knew how to draw objects in perspective. Perspective is a common technique used by artists to make two-dimensional (flat) surfaces look like they are three-dimensional (not flat). There are many ways to do this. Look carefully at the works of art below. What has Walter Baum done in these paintings to show things going back into space, to make things look three-dimensional?



Walter Baum, *The Narrows*, 1936, oil on canvas, 39.25" x 49.25", Collection of the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22



Walter Baum, *Ranstead Street*, 1936, oil on masonite, 24"x30", Collection of the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22

You might have noticed the following:

- **Overlapping** – Putting one object in front of the other
- **Shading** – Placing dark and light on objects to create the effect of shadows and sunlight
- **Changing the size of objects in the painting** – Smaller objects are farther away, and larger objects are closer.
- **Placement** – Objects higher in the picture are farther away than objects lower in the picture.
- **Details and colors change** – Details and the colors of objects fade as they are farther away because it is harder to see them.
- **Linear perspective** - A drawing method developed in the 15th century in which all of the parallel lines and edges of a surface are drawn at an angle that goes back to the horizon to a single vanishing point. It is the vanishing point that is the farthest point on the horizon.

Try using some of these techniques in your own artwork at home.

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