Bierstadt–Inspired 3-D Landscape

Supplies

A manila folder, cardstock, or stiff paper
Construction paper
Tape or glue
Scissors
Colored pencils, crayons, or markers

Instructions

1. If you are using a piece of cardstock or stiff paper, fold it in half.
2. Open the paper or folder so that the fold creates a horizontal line across the middle of the paper.
3. The top half (above the fold) will be the background of your landscape. The bottom half (below the fold) will be the ground.
4. Using glue or tape, cover the background with a piece of construction paper. You might choose blue if you want a blue sky, black if you want it to be nighttime, pink or purple for dawn or sunset, etc.
5. Choose a piece of construction paper for the ground and tape or glue it to the bottom half of your paper.
6. Using colored pencils, crayons, or markers, draw the background of your landscape. Perhaps you will create large, snow-covered mountains against a blue sky, or a city skyline against a starry night sky. You can create backdrops by cutting them out of construction paper and gluing or taping them to the background, if you prefer.
7. Decide what kinds of things you want in the foreground and middle ground of your landscape. Perhaps you will have a house and some trees in the middle ground and some people in the foreground, or maybe you will have trees in the middle ground and flowers and a dog in the foreground. Draw the items you want for the middle ground and background on pieces of construction paper. Decorate them using colored pencils, crayons, or markers. Cut them out, leaving extra paper at the bottom, a tab, that can be folded to create a base.
8. Position your paper so that it makes a right angle, with the base flat on your work surface, and the background upright, or perpendicular to your work surface.
9. Use the tabs to tape your middle ground objects toward the back of the base, closer to the fold.
10. Use the tabs to tape your foreground objects toward the front of the base.