

# Albert Bierstadt

**Albert Bierstadt** is famous for his large paintings of the American West. In the nineteenth century, few people had been to the western part of the United States. Many were curious about what it was like. Bierstadt introduced them to the plains, rivers, mountains, and valleys through his scenic paintings.



Albert Bierstadt, *Mount Adams, Washington, 1875*. Princeton University Art Museum. Gift of Mrs. Jacob N. Beam

**Look closely.**

What do you see? List everything you see in this painting.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

A landscape is a view of nature. Most landscapes can be divided into three sections: foreground, middle ground, and background.

The foreground is the part of the painting that appears to be closest to us. Go back to your list and put the letter F next to the things in your list that are in the foreground of this painting.

The background is the part of the painting that appears to be the farthest away. Put the letter B next to the things in your list that are in the background.

The middle ground is the middle layer of the painting, between the foreground and the background. Put the letter M next to the things in your list that are in the middle ground of the painting.

**Use Your Imagination**

Pretend you are one of the people standing in this painting.

What sounds do you think you would hear? \_\_\_\_\_

What would you feel? \_\_\_\_\_

What would you smell? \_\_\_\_\_

What would the mountain look like from where you are standing? How far away is it? How long do you think it would take to walk there?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Make Connections**

Have you ever been to a park or natural setting with lots of grass and trees?

\_\_\_\_\_

Were there mountains nearby?

\_\_\_\_\_

What else could you see?

\_\_\_\_\_

How did it make you feel?

\_\_\_\_\_