13-B Autumn Landscape, 1923-1924

Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848–1933)

13-B Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848–1933), Autumn Landscape—The River of Life, 1923–1924, Tiffany Studios (1902–1938). Leaded Favrile-glass window, 11 ft. x 8 ft. 6 in. (335.3 x 259.1 cm.). The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gift of Robert W. de Forest, 1925 (25.173). Photograph © 1997 The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The Art

Loren Towle, a rich businessman, hired the artist Louis Comfort Tiffany to make this stained glass window for his home in Boston, Massachusetts. Stained glass windows are a form of art in which an artist arranges pieces of glass in different sizes and colors to create a picture. Each piece of colored glass in the window is like a piece of a puzzle that fits in just one place to help make the large picture of a fall scene. The way the glass pieces fit together makes the picture look like a painting made with oil or watercolor paint.

The Artist

Tiffany was the son of the man who started the famous jewelry store in New York City called Tiffany's. Tiffany was not interested in his family's jewelry business. He studied to be a painter in Paris, France. Tiffany experimented with making new kinds of glass and became famous for his lamps, vases, and stained glass windows.

The Historical Perspective

Tiffany loved nature. He wanted to use a medium other than paint to capture nature's beauty in works of art, and he chose glass. A medium is the material an artist chooses to create art. When Tiffany was an artist, colored glass was becoming popular. A growing number of churches with windows made of stained glass were being built. Tiffany created many images of nature with glass, including flowering shrubs and trees. His windows are famous for their beauty and the way they filter natural light to beautify these scenes of nature even more.

Conversations and Teaching Activities

Head Start Children ages 3 to 5

Encourage children to look carefully at this stained glass window—the central object, the background, and the many colors used. Introduce new vocabulary and find classroom or library books that relate to the image.

Describing

✔ Use your "I Spy" telescope to look carefully at this stained glass window. Have children use as many words as they can to describe what they see.

✔ What is a season? What season do you see in this window? How do you know?

✔ Guide the children to think about their own environment during fall or autumn. What signs do you see to let you know there are changes happening in the weather and in nature? What special holidays happen in the fall?

Analyzing and Interpreting

Ask the following questions to stimulate thinking and discussion:

- The name of this artwork is *Autumn Landscape*. Why do you think the artist gave it that name?
- What do you see in this stained glass window? Do you think this is a picture of a real place? Why or why not? How do you know?
- Why do you think the artist made this stained glass window?
- Have you seen stained glass windows? Tell us about the windows you saw.
- How is this stained glass window like a painting? How would this window feel if you touched it?

Connecting and Extending

Introducing Vocabulary

autumn	pool
bright	reflection
climate	stained glass
clouds	sunset
flowing	waterfall
mountains	window

Books

Autumnblings: Poems and Paintings by Douglas Florian (Greenwillow Books, 2003)
Short poems and paintings focus on the differences between seasons.

Come Look with Me: Exploring Landscape Art with Children by Gladys S. Blizzard (Thomasson-Grant, 1992)
This book highlights the landscape paintings of 12 artists and provides discussion questions and biographical information on each artist.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle (Philomel, 1987)
Explore the changes of seasons with a hungry caterpillar that eats a great quantity and variety of food before making a cocoon and taking a nap.

Connecting and Extending continued...

Related Educational Experiences

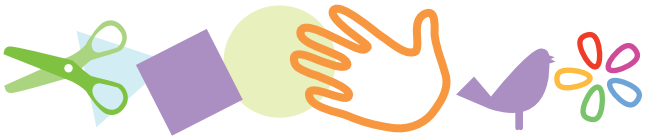
✔ Take a nature walk. Collect autumn leaves and other evidence of the changing seasons. Use objects you've collected to make collages that reflect autumn.

✔ Allow children to tear tissue paper of various autumn colors to create a tree with spreading branches on drawing paper. Then let them arrange and glue the pieces of torn tissue paper on the branches. Display children's creations in your autumn gallery.

✔ Discuss how animals change according to changes in the weather. Take a look around the center to investigate habitats and changes in the seasons. Perhaps there's a nature center nearby with a park ranger who can lead your walk or talk with the children about his work.

✔ Decorate your room with signs of fall—do you have cornstalks, pumpkins, and an abundance of autumn leaves? Invite children to help arrange these signs of fall around the classroom.

*The ideas listed are just a few of the many activities that could be used to introduce or extend children's learning. Your knowledge of your children and families supports your ability to ensure positive learning experiences and outcomes for students. As an educator, you probably have ideas for books, songs, finger plays, and activities that you have thought of when introducing or extending children's learning related to the "**A Head Start on Picturing America**" artworks. We encourage you to confer with your colleagues, visit the local library or bookstore, and share your ideas with others.*



Related Family Literacy Experiences

Parents and children can:

✔ take a nature walk and collect autumn leaves and other evidence of the changing seasons. They can then use the collected objects to make collages.

✔ cook something together that reminds them of fall (soup, pumpkin pie, etc.).

✔ look around their community for stained glass windows and talk about what they see.