

Landscape Collage inspired by artist, Shelli Walters



Objective: Students will create a variety of prints using **Gel Press®** plates. They will experiment with tools, paints, inks and try new methods of mark making in their prints. From this prints, they will create a collaged landscape.

Materials:

- Gel Press®** plates - a variety of sizes and shapes
- White 80lb. drawing paper and other papers
- Acrylic paints or printing inks
- Paint brushes, plastic cards, brayers to apply paint
- A variety of texture tools, stencils, stamps, lace/fabric and found objects.
- Oil pastels, color sticks, colored pencils
- Scissors
- Acrylic matte medium
- Wipes or wet paper towels

Pre-Lesson:

- Demonstrate how to use a **Gel Press®** plate.
- View art works that depict collaged landscapes by artist, Shelli Walters.
<https://www.shelliwaltersstudio.com/gallery>

National Core Arts Standards for the Visual Arts:

VA:Cr1.1.Ia: Use multiple approaches to begin creative endeavors.

VA:Cr1.2.Ia: Shape an artistic investigation of an aspect of present day life using a contemporary practice of art or design.

VA:Cr2.1.Ia: Engage in making a work of art or design without having a preconceived plan.

VA:Cn10.1.IIa: Utilize inquiry methods of observation, research, and experimentation to explore unfamiliar subjects through art making.

Preparation:

- Set up printing stations at tables. Using trays for **Gel Press®** plates or a placemat for paints and plate to be set up helps minimize mess.
- Prepare paint in one location.

Tip: For each print, students should stick with colors that are similar in hue but can be a variety of values.

- Have paint brushes, stamps, brayers, and other tools in a bin at tables or in one location to pick from.
- In order to streamline clean up, have students place dirty/reusable tools in a soapy bucket of water to soak while they clean up other materials.

Step 1: Experimental Printing

- Students should gather tools, textured items, and found objects to print with. Have them choose items that are intriguing to them from a variety offered.

Tip: Provide a variety of items: stamps, stencils, texture tools, plastic cards, bubble wrap pieces, scraps of lace or other fabric, string, recycled materials like lids, packaging, cardboard, etc., also some different textured papers, music sheets, newspaper or text book printed papers, or scrap papers as an alternative to white paper. This will allow for variety.

- Students should pick paint or ink colors that are similar or next to each other on the color wheel as well as white or black. They can mix them without too much muddiness or too much contrast.
- Encourage experimentation and to make a lot of prints. Each print should be different colors.



Step 2: Plan Landscape or Image

- After viewing the work of Shelli Walters, discuss nature, landscapes and seascapes. Talk about what colors lend themselves to different images.
- Students should plan out their landscape or collaged image with a general sketch.

Tip: Students can use photo reference or create an abstracted landscape.

- Students should draw their planned composition on large paper 9" x12" or larger.



Step 3: Collage

- Have students start ripping or cutting shapes from their prints to layout onto their sketch.

Tip: Encourage them to stick to directions that the land or image would naturally go (vertical cliffs, horizontal water layers, diagonal mountains, etc.).

- Once they get an area planned out, they can start to adhere with a glue stick or brush on acrylic matte medium under each of the pieces.
- A final layer of matte medium would be applied over the entire finished work to seal in and allow for good adhesion.

