



at Fairsted

As the site of the nation’s first full-scale, professional landscape architecture office, we have a lot of examples of creative uses of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math. We would love you to try out some thing inspired by the happenings of the Olmsted office!

What did the Olmsteds do? The Olmsted firm’s draftsmen were responsible for bringing the ideas of the landscape designs to life! Sometimes they created watercolor paintings to show what the completed landscape would look like to show to their clients.

Vocabulary:
Watercolor: water-soluable paint.
Foreground: what is in the front of the painting, closest to the viewer.
Background: what is farthest away.
Wash: mixture with a large amount of water and a small amount of paint.

What can you do?

Supplies needed:
Watercolor paper (or a thick paper)
Water
Watercolor Paints
Paintbrushes with soft bristles
A landscape to look at that you are inspired by! If you cannot go there in person, look at a picture of your favorite landscape.

Directions:

1. Find a landscape you are interested in painting.
2. Lightly sketch the landscape with just a whisper of your pencil tip.
3. Use your fingertips or a clean brush to lightly wet the background areas of the paper with water, leaving the subjects / foreground dry.

4. Using a mixture that has more water than paint, (also called a “wash”), paint the background of the landscape.

Tip: You can create swirls of color for the sky or ground by dropping different colors onto that section of the paper.

5. After the background has dried, paint the foreground subjects with a mixture that has more paint than the wash did.

