
Wet Felting Landscapes



Grade: 4th

Medium: Wool Roving

Learning Objective: Students will learn about Impressionism and will observe works by artists: Claude Monet, Vincent van Gogh, Pierre Renoir and Mary Cassatt. They will then create a landscape by felting wool roving.

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Elements of Art

Texture: used to describe the way a work feels when touched or may refer to the visual "feel" of a piece. Some words to describe texture are: rough, smooth, coarse, soft, gritty, prickly, and slick.

Principles of Design

Unity: achieved when the components of a work of art are perceived as harmonious, giving the work a sense of completion.

Additional Vocabulary

Felting: becoming permanently matted or entangled.

Impressionism: Impressionism began in France when a group of young and talented artists decided to form a new style of painting. Impressionists wanted to capture a moment in time. Critics said that their work was merely "impressions" of reality and the name stuck.

Wool: the fine, soft curly or wavy hair forming the coat of a sheep, goat, or similar animal which is used to make yarn and cloth.

Wool Scales: the exposed edges of the cuticle cells pointing towards the tip of a fiber (hair), creating a jagged edge. Fibers cross and slip over one another giving wool the ability to felt.

Materials & Supplies

- Wool Roving white (.5 oz. per student)
- Wool Roving Various landscape colors (examples: Moss, yellow, orange, lagoon, blue, orchid, chili)
- Gallon resealable plastic bags (1per student + demo)
- Liquid dish soap (clear)
- Bamboo sushi mats or bubble wrap
- Several pitchers (one for water and one for warm soapy water)
- Towels
- Black permanent markers (1 per student or per table)
- Masking or painters' tape for labeling
- Cardstock for mounting when dry (black)
- Stapler or glue for mounting

Context

Impressionism was a style of painting developed in the late 1800's which featured the changing effects of light and time on everyday subjects. This was a reaction to the development of the camera which could capture the actual details of a situation at a specific moment in time. This forced or gave the opportunity for artists to change how and what they were capturing from traditional realism to many new forms of art. Impressionism used the "new" found science of color theory (how our eyes perceive color) to explore other ways to create images.

Advanced Preparation

This is a wet process. So, work in an area where getting the floor wet won't be a problem. Weigh white roving and roll into balls .5oz per student. This will be used as the background layer for the landscape.

Find Impressionistic landscapes by Monet, Van Gogh, Renoir and Mary Cassatt to show students.

Tips & Tricks

- Divide up different colored wools in bags for each table to share.
- Have a dry bin for each table group to keep wool contained on the tables. Easy to move away before using water.

Discussion Points

What is impressionism?

How is an impressionistic artwork different far away than up close?

What is a landscape? What will you find in a landscape?

Where did this amazing bag of brightly colored wool come from?

What is a felted textile?

Reflection Point (Assessment of Learning Objectives)

- Students have created a felted landscape using layers of colored roving to create an image.
- Students can describe how their felted work is like Impressionistic artwork. (individual brushstrokes/pieces of roving combine to create an image).
- Students can describe how an Impressionistic artwork is different than traditional realism.
- I can create my own a landscape "painting" by using the wet felting technique.

Instructions for Lesson

Set Up:

Have pre-weighed balls of white roving .5oz per student ready to hand out.

Prepare a dry bin with different colored roving. One per table

Prepare one pitcher with very warm soapy water and one with fresh very warm water.

1. Observe landscape painting images by Claude Monet, Vincent van Gogh, Pierre Renoir and Mary Cassatt. Discuss elements found in landscapes.
2. What is a landscape? How are these paintings impressionistic? – individual brush strokes combine to create “impression” of image.
3. Explain how students will create their own “impressionistic” landscape using felted wool fibers.
4. Introduce wool roving fiber as a textile to create art.
5. What is felting? Felting is considered the oldest of all the textile or fiber arts. Felting works with warm water, soap and agitation creates an environment that causes the scales on wool to open and then lock together. Show images of wool fiber under microscope showing scales.
6. Demonstrate how to layout Wool (crossing fibers).
7. First a layer of white one direction and then a second layer of white crossing the other direction.



8. Then add colored roving on top of the white creating a landscape composition. This should become several inches high and fluffy.
9. Carefully slide wool into plastic bag keeping the landscape layout as best as possible. Add warm soapy water to bag. Just enough water to saturate fibers. Remove air and seal the bag.



10. Use hands, from outside of the bag, to felt wool. Tapping on the bag.
Pour out excess water, zip the bag back and continue to felt (tapping)
11. When wool has begun to felt, having a matted texture, remove ½-felted wool from the plastic bag and lay wool on a sushi mat or bubble wrap.



12. Roll up and roll back and forth to felt inside the sushi mat or bubble wrap. Unroll and turn wool painting clockwise one turn and roll up felting to evenly felt.

13. Start to add fresh water only to rinse soap. Repeat and rinse soap completely.

Gently roll in a towel to get out as much water as possible.

14. Use tape to Label with name and teacher's name on the back of masterpiece. Let dry overnight.

15. When dry mount to cardstock or frame to display.



Notes for Educators

21st Century Thinking Skills

Observing, cause and effect, creating.

Students will use visual observation, visualization and decision-making skills by observing impressionistic landscape paintings and then create their own landscape made from the wool felting technique.

WA State Learning Standards:

(VA:Cr1.1.4) Brainstorm multiple approaches to a creative art or design problem.

(VA:Cr1.2.4) a. Collaboratively set goals and create artwork that is meaningful and has purpose to the makers.

(VA:Cr2.2.4) When making works of art, utilize and care for materials, tools, and equipment in a manner that prevents danger to oneself and others.

Arts Integrations Opportunities

Color theory in science.