

Drawing the Landscape in One-Point Perspective

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In this program, students will be introduced to the concept of one-point perspective drawing. Students will identify the basic principles of perspective and learn to apply its application to their own physical navigations from points A to B in the Southern California landscape.

What is One-Point Perspective Drawing?

One-point perspective drawing is a method of drawing objects on a flat sheet of paper that aims to give a realistic interpretation of the three-dimensional world. It reveals how objects appear smaller as they get further from where you stand, and larger as they get closer to where you stand.

Think of watching the sun set on the horizon. We tend to center ourselves with the sun's location in the sky. Like a magnet, the sun pulls our eyes closer and closer to the center of the horizon. As our eyes travel closer, buildings, people, trees, etc. appear smaller. This is a real life example of a one-point perspective, point of view.

Key Terms

Vanishing Point: Considering the sun a magnet, all of our sight-lines (imaginary and visible lines leading one's eyes toward a single point on the horizon), meet at a **vanishing point**. This point of intersection, is the singular point from where our lines of perspective grow. The vanishing point is the seed of your drawing: from here all lines grow outward like the roots of a plant.

Horizon: Where the Earth meets the sky. The horizon is the horizontal line representing the limits to our field of vision. Naturally, our eyes land upon this when we look out at the landscape. The horizon represents our eye-level line. It is as far as our eyes can see, and where the world appears to end!

Perspective: Point of view. Objects (houses, cars, people, road signs, trees, mountains, etc.) appear smaller as one travels further away, and larger as one travels closer

How-To Draw in One-Point Perspective

After a quick introduction to one-point perspective drawing and terms, students will be given the copy paper template with pre-drawn letter-points.

Using a pencil and the template included, students follow along as teacher connects the series of letters. The template will have students draw a desert landscape with railroad tracks.

Template:

- Point A: Vanishing Point – all lines begin here
 - Points B: Horizon
 - Points C: In Roads
 - Points D: Railroad Tracks
1. Beginning at **Point A** draw a line left to **B**. Return to **A** and draw a line right to **B**. This establishes the horizon.

2. Return to **A** and draw a line connecting **C** in the lower left corner. Return to **A** and draw a line connecting **C** in the lower right corner. Don't worry if lines aren't perfectly straight. It's okay if they're a little wobbly, as this is true to lines in the real world.
3. Third, return to **A** and draw a line connecting **D** on the lower left. Return to **A** and draw a line connecting **D** on the lower right. These lines represent the railroad rails.
4. Imagining lines **A** to **D** are railroad rails, now draw in the horizontal tracks as parallel lines to bottom edge of paper. Begin in the drawing's foreground (bottom edge of paper) and travel further back to the vanishing point (**A**) centered on the horizon. Naturally, the rails grow shorter as you approach the vanishing point, also, the space between the horizontal rails, grows smaller as you approach the vanishing point. This will maintain perspective.
5. Extra challenge: Drawing palm trees. We are looking into our landscape so the trees appear flat or one-sided. Draw a palm tree along the train tracks, far away, closer to the vanishing point. This tree will be short, as it is distant. Draw a second palm tree in the drawing's foreground, making sure it is taller, as it is closer to where we stand as we look into our landscape drawing.
6. Once completed, students may elaborate to creatively "fill-in" their own interpretations of landscape, keeping in mind the "rules" of one-point perspective. Students are encouraged to use their imaginations to populate their own unique interpretations of the Southern California landscape.

Excellent, you now have a one-point perspective drawing of the desert landscape!

By lesson's end students will understand how to create a drawing of the exterior landscape in one-point perspective, rendering a realistic, dimensional drawing, similar to how one's two eyes view the world. This lesson will instill values of creative interpretation, perception and visual representation, as well as the pleasures of drawing and attentive, curious observation in an increasingly fast-paced digitized world.

1

B

C

A

D

D

B

C

①

B

C

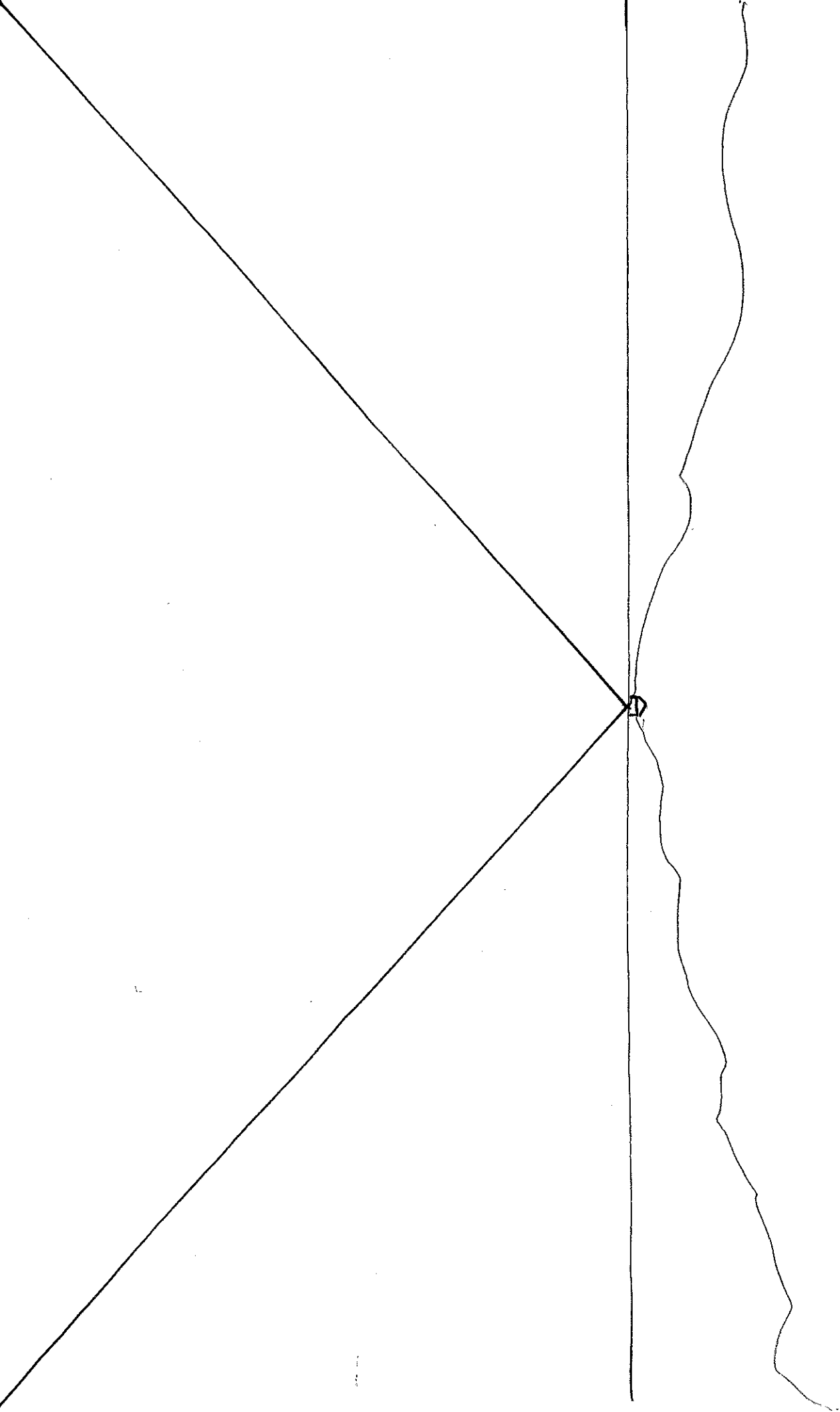
A

D

D

B

C



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