

Map it out!



Lesson developed by artist, Anthony Pearson

Objective

Students will explore topography by illustrating different areas on a map of California using color and texture. This activity also introduces students to the wide range of geographic regions in California and asks them to draw a picture of their favorite landscape.

Age Kindergarten and up

Time 45 mins

Focus Geography, Visual Arts (Line, Space, Color, Form, Texture)

Material

- Crayons
- Map Worksheets (Found on the resource page – all worksheets need to be printed ahead of time in order to complete the activity.)

Core Standards

- Social Emotional: Self Management - Set plans and work towards goals
- Visual Arts: Responding - Describe what an image represents.

(See below for a full list of standards.)

Opening (5 mins)

Give an overview of the lesson and distribute crayons and both map worksheets to each student.

- *Today, we will be looking at a map of California and use different crayon colors to color-in the many landscapes in California.*

Questions:

- *Can anyone give an example of a landscape? Let students answer. If they are unsure, help them – landscapes make up the geography of a country. Landscapes are beaches, oceans, deserts, rivers, lakes, forests, and mountains.*
- *Have you ever been to any of these kinds of landscapes before in California?*
- *What do you like about them?*

Now students can begin drawing maps.

Instruction and Guided Practice (5 mins)

Provide students with maps worksheets and they can begin to work through them with support from the instructor.

- *You each have two maps in front of you. One is colored in with greens and browns, the other is in black and white. Both are maps of California. The brown coloring represents the mountains and the green represents the valleys and coast. The bodies of water are colored blue and the desert is colored yellow or tan. Do you all see that?*

Using the green and brown colored map as a model, color in the black and white map the same way.

Step 1: *Let's start with the green areas on the map. The green sections on the map represent valleys and coastal land. Do you see those? Color those same areas on your map, **green**.*

Step 2: *The areas on the map that are brown and have a rough looking texture represent the mountains in California. Do you see those? Color those same areas on your map, **brown**.*

Step 3: *The areas on the map that are blue and represent the bodies of water in California. Do you see those? Color those same areas on your map, **blue**.*

Step 4: *The areas on the map that are yellow represent the deserts in California. Do you see those? Color those same areas on your map, **yellow or tan**.*

Below is a color key for the map. Please write this on the board or review with students as needed.. Also, please encourage students to reference their colored map as much as they may need.

- Color the low lying valleys and coastal areas: **Green**
- Color the mountains: **Brown**
- Color the Pacific Ocean, San Francisco Bay, Lake Tahoe and Salton Sea: **Blue**
- Color the desert areas: **Yellow or Tan**

After coloring in the black and white map below students will have a better understanding of the varied climates and regions the state of California has to offer.

Additional questions to support students' understanding of geography (optional):

- *Do you see how diverse our geography is in California? There are mountains, deserts, valleys, forests, the ocean, and many different bodies of water.*
- *What is your favorite part of the State?*
- *Do you like the ocean/beach, forest, rivers/lakes or desert the best?*

Step 5: *Awesome job! Now that you have drawn a map of California, next, I'd like you to draw a picture of your favorite place in nature – it could be anything--the beach, forest, lake, or desert. Or it could be one aspect of nature, like a tree, grass, the sky, the sun. Go ahead and draw!*

Step 6: *Make sure to label your drawing with the name of the place. I.e. "Ocean Beach, San Francisco, California" or "A tree, Echo Park, Los Angeles"*

Work Time (25 mins)

Circulate the room to help students as needed.

Closing (5 mins)

Ask students to show their drawing with the class and share about why they love their favorite place in California.

Extension

4th-5th Grade: Instructor should have students label the different part of geography on the map.

Philosophy

Art is an essential tool for early childhood development. Studies have shown that art education helps to increase comprehension of STEM and literacy concepts as well as offering students an outlet to process trauma, develop self-discipline and self-management, and interpersonal relationship skills. Active engagement in the arts can yield positive benefits in social and emotional growth. The art lessons developed by Crayon Collection are meant to support this growth.

Standards

Common Core Standards

Speaking and Listening

6. Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly.

Social Emotional Competencies

Self Management

- Set plans and work towards goals
- Display grit, determination and perseverance

California Visual Arts

Creating

- Engage in exploration and imaginative play with various arts materials.
- Through experimentation, build skills in various media and approaches to artmaking.
- Create art that represents natural and constructed environments.

Responding

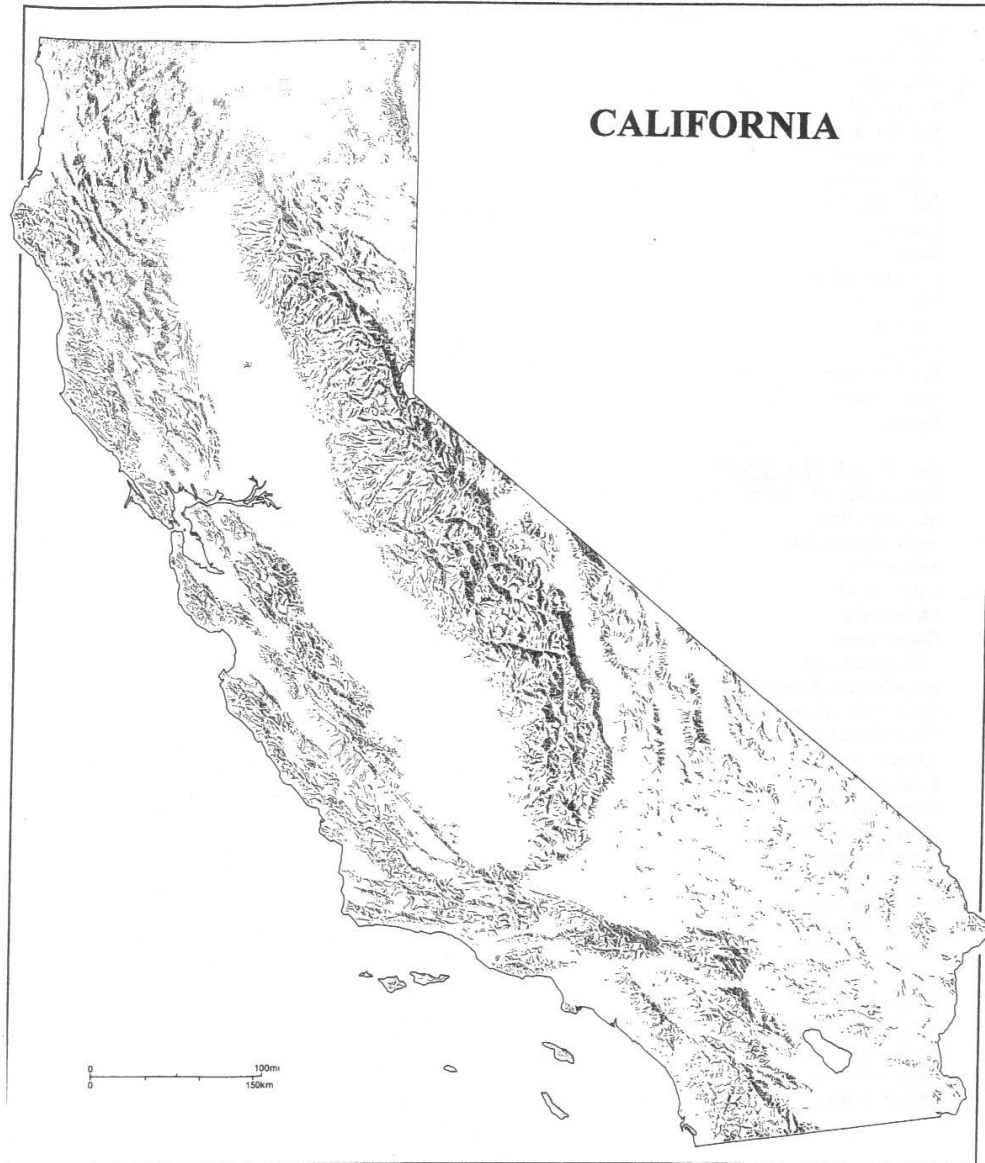
- Describe what an image represents.



About the Artist

Anthony Pearson has been the subject of solo exhibitions at the Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis (2012) and Midway Contemporary Art, Minneapolis (2008). Pearson's work is in the permanent collections of a number of museums; among them are the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis. In 2019, a comprehensive monograph dedicated to Pearson's multifaceted work was published by Inventory Press. Pearson received his MFA in 1999 from UCLA.

Additional Resource



For web access, click this link: <http://clipart-library.com/clipart/LTd5BdoMc.htm>

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