

George Inness born [May 1, 1825](#)) in [Newburgh, New York](#);

Inness was the 5th of 13 children

He father was a [grocer](#). His family moved to [Newark, New Jersey](#) when he was about 4 years of age.

In his teens, Inness worked as a map engraver while sketching scenes from nature on the side.

During this time period, he attracted the attention of fellow artist [Regis Gignoux](#), whom he soon after moved to [New York City](#) to study with. He enjoyed painting landscapes. Inness began his artistic career painting in the style of the [Hudson River School](#) artists. They focused on the American countryside and they were very technical in their approach and their paintings were accurate as to what they were seen.

When Inness was in his early 20s, a patron named Ogden Haggerty sponsored a trip the artist took to Europe to paint and study. Inness spent a year in [Italy](#) as well as a year in [France](#) before returning to the United States. However, during trips to Paris in the early 1850s, Inness came under the influence of artists working in the [Barbizon school](#) of [France](#). [Barbizon landscapes](#) were noted for their looser brushwork, darker palette, and emphasis on mood. They wanted people to feel happy or sad when they saw their artwork.

Inness became regarded as the finest American [landscape](#) artist of his time.

During the 1850's, Inness was commissioned to create paintings which documented the progress of growth in early Industrial America.

Show Picture



He was 69 years old and this painting was done in 1894. This was done after a trip to France to a place called “Etretat” and it was done about 20 times from memory.

A landscape artist is a magician who can create a whole world on a piece of canvas. Trees seem thick with foliage, lakes shine, waterfalls splash and dark colors promise a storm do not come out of paint tubes – they are created. A landscape artist does not take a picture of a scene. If there are too many trees, the artist can decide not to put it on the canvas. The landscape artist must make decisions: do I work outside during the moment or do I work inside and make the painting a combination of what is real and what is remembered.

A landscape artist must work to make the painting to have space. There are 5 tricks that they use:

1. a winding path: goes from the foreground to the background
2. changes in size: a tree close to us that is 1 inch tall looks bigger than a tree 1 inch tall in the back of the painting.
3. overlap: a boulder that is close to us overlaps and partially hides a much larger cliff behind it.
4. changes in clarity: a distant mountain ranges appears more hazy and less distinct than a mountain that is closer.
5. Diagonal composition: land that moves away from us on the diagonal appears to move back into space

Project: You are making a landscape picture of the beach.

In your picture you will have a sky, beach and land.

Talk about the horizon line.

If it is high, the land is more important. If it is low, the sky is more important.

Talk about color: bright colors make things look very close while faded color makes things look distant.

watercolor paper

tissue

watercolors

big paint brushes from the closet

water

1 piece of white paper per student

markers and or crayons

1. With your watercolors create a background - Top is Blue: for the sky, the middle: can be anything, the bottom being green, gray, brown)
2. If you like take a tissue and blend.
3. The blending gives a nice landscape color wash
4. While your landscape is drying, color and cut pictures of things in your landscape off of one piece of white paper.
5. Try to concentrate on placing an object in the foreground, middle ground and background.