

# Art A Day CHALLENGE: Respect your Mother: Earth Day Art Challenge

## Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

**Stuff you'll need:** Materials are up to you! Read through the challenge and make your decision based on your idea!



Thomas Moran  
American, 1837-1926  
*Lower Manhattan from Communipaw,  
New Jersey, 1880*



Frederic Edwin Church  
American, 1826-1900  
*Scene on the Catskill Creek,  
New York, 1847*

**LOOK** at the above two paintings by two different artists. Both depict a time after the start of the Industrial Revolution. The Industrial Revolution was a time when the manufacturing of goods moved from small shops and homes to large factories. This shift brought about changes in culture as people moved from rural areas to big cities in order to work. As you can see, this time brought change to our landscapes and environment as well.



Detail of Thomas Moran  
American, 1837-1926  
*Lower Manhattan from  
Communipaw, New Jersey, 1880*

Compare and contrast the paintings. Look at the sky and subject in the first painting by Thomas Moran. We can see factories and smoke stacks. Air pollution from the factories form clouds and turns the entire sky gray and white. Look in the foreground. We see trash, debris, and unidentifiable objects.



Thomas Moran  
American, 1837-1926  
*Lower Manhattan from Communipaw,  
New Jersey, 1880*

Now, look at the painting by Frederic E Church. What are the differences between the paintings?

Look at the clear, crisp sky. Do you see any signs of human life? Look at the plants, clear water and tall, old trees. Look at the naturally formed clouds versus the clouds made by pollution in the Moran painting.

**MAKE:** Create your perfect world. How do you want your planet to look when you grow up? If you love the city, how can we have cities and factories while still keeping our Earth clean and crisp? If you love the forest and the mountains, how can you show respect while visiting or living there? If you like to live in a neighborhood, what can you and your neighbors do to keep a balance between a healthy planet and living in nice houses?

**Writing Extension:** Write about or debate with family or in a short essay, the pros and cons of the Industrial Revolution. Think about jobs created, worker's rights, child labor laws, and environmental concerns (and regulations the government eventually set into place).

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