

# Art A Day CHALLENGE: National Treasures and Trees

## Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

We challenge you to an art activity each day during school closures! If you decide to complete this challenge, share it with us in the comments and on Instagram @WCMFA and use the hashtag #ARTaDayCHALLENGE. The order you complete the challenges is up to you!

**Stuff you'll need:** Materials are up to you! Read through the challenge and make your decision based on your idea! ALL ART MEDIUMS WELCOME: cellphone cameras, pencil, paper, clipboards, erasers, paint, etc!

### Words you need to know:

**Atmospheric perspective:** method of creating the illusion of depth, or recession, in a painting or drawing by modulating color to simulate changes effected by the **atmosphere** on the colors of things seen at a distance (Britannica.com)



**LOOK** at this landscape by Thomas Moran. It features the Grand Canyon, a famous landmark and United States National Park. Notice the darker foreground (the area in the front) and how the details and colors get lighter and lighter as we move back into the landscape, continuing all the way to where the canyons touch the sky. Some artists call this **atmospheric perspective** and it gives the illusion that we can travel into the scene of a landscape painting. This is created by using less contrast and less vibrant colors further back into the landscape. Also notice how trees frame both sides of the canyon in the front.

Thomas Moran

*Grand Canyon of Arizona from Hermit Rim Road*

1913

**THINK:** Travel virtually to a national park

<https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/photosmultimedia/virtualtours.htm>. Are there any places you've never heard of? Which one calls you? What about this place interests you?

**MAKE** a landscape of a national park. Use a virtual tour and other resource images as a resource to inspire you. Try to keep the idea of **atmospheric perspective** in mind as you attempt to create the illusion of depth: details get smaller, colors get lighter, and the contrast lightens up as you look deeper into the picture.

**Writing Prompt Extension:** Write about why national parks are so important to the world? Why are national parks worth saving? If you are interested, read a little about the history of national parks <https://www.nps.gov/articles/quick-nps-history.htm>. Share your take.

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