

## Scenes of Waterbury

How are landscape paintings and drawings created?

**Duration:** 60 minutes

**Grade Level:** All ages

### Learning Objectives:

- Compare and contrast the styles of different landscape artists including Frederic Edwin Church, Elsie Rowland Chase, and Peter Poskas
- Develop an understanding of how artists create landscapes
- Compare and contrast different media used to create landscapes, such as pastels, oils, and pencil sketches, and surfaces, such as canvas, paper, and hardboards
- Think about ways you can use your imagination

### Outcomes:

- Students will be exposed to and learn about the styles of landscape artistry
- Students will be introduced to the use of perspective drawing to create an interesting composition
- Students will experience the use of several different art media and tools, through projects that encourage creativity and dexterity

### Associated Activities:

- Draw a Landscape, 60 minutes
- Create the Green, 30 minutes
- Waterbury Scavenger Hunt, 90 minutes

## Who was Elsie Rowland Chase?

Elsie Rowland Chase specialized in painting the world of her friends and family. She studied at the Yale School of Fine Arts from 1884 to 1889 and was an active member of the New Haven Paint and Clay Club. She was also a member of the National Association of Women Painters and Sculptors.

In 1890, Elsie Rowland married Frederick Starkweather Chase, who was later the founder of the Chase Rolling Mill Company and president of Chase Companies, Inc. The couple lived in Waterbury and Middlebury and raised 6 children. Their fifth child, Frederika, was the subject of a painting by Josephine Lewis, whom Elsie knew at Yale. Rowland Park in Waterbury is named after Elsie's family.

Elsie's artwork featured scenes of Waterbury prominently. She painted landscapes of Waterbury, images from inside the brass factories, portraits of friends and family members, and still lifes inside homes.

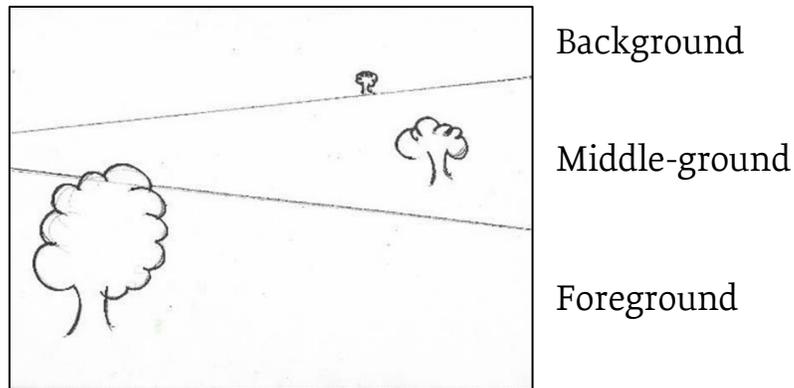


Elsie Rowland Chase, *Chase Rolling Mill*, c. 1895, Oil on canvas

**Activity:** Elsie Rowland Chase shared her art with friends and family. Create a postcard with a kind note to a friend or family member. Share a landscape or another image of your daily life.

## What is a landscape?

A landscape is a depiction of the visible features of an area of land. Many times, landscapes include natural scenes such as mountains, valleys, trees, rivers, and forests. The sky is usually an important feature, and weather and details from nature are commonly incorporated as well. Landscapes often features a wide view with a foreground, a middle ground, and a background.



*Landscape composition*

**Activity:** Draw your own landscape, either a scene of Waterbury or a scene of your imagination. Follow the instructions in your packet.

Landscapes can be painted in a variety of styles: realist (Frederic Edwin Church), impressionist (Claude Monet), fauvist (Henri Matisse), pointilist (Jean Metzinger), and more.

**Think:** What landscape do you interact with most often? Is it in Waterbury? Your school? A park? How would you want to depict that landscape?

## Waterbury

Elsie Rowland Chase. 20<sup>th</sup> century. Oil on canvas.



### Questions for Viewing:

- What do you see?
- What is going on in the painting?
- What is the mood of the scene?
- Where do you think the scene in the painting takes place?
- Why do you think the artist painted the painting?
- Where could you look to learn more about this artist?

## What are famous scenes of Waterbury?



Peter Poskas, *Crossroads of Washington and Wilson Street, Waterbury*, c. 1975, oil on canvas.

For three centuries new families have settled in the Waterbury region: from a colony of farmers they became builders of a nation. In the nineteenth century, Waterbury, which was built on English tradition, transformed its struggling agricultural economy into a successful industrial center. The manufacturing of the metal button led to brass making, which later became the industry that forged a brass empire that reached around the world.

**Activity:** Go on a scavenger hunt around Waterbury! Take a look at our list of items to hunt for, take pictures as you find them, and then share them with us!

## What are some other landscape artists?

### Frederic Edwin Church

Frederic Edwin Church was an American landscape painter born in Hartford, Connecticut. He was a central figure in the Hudson River School of American landscape painters, best known for painting large landscapes, often depicting mountains, waterfalls, and sunsets.

Although this is not a standard landscape it shows the three major elements – foreground, middle-ground, and background – and it is one of our favorites.



Frederic Edwin Church, *Icebergs*, 1863, oil on canvas

**Think:** How is this landscape different from the other ones you have seen? What does Church do with color? Which style do you prefer?

### Hudson River School

The Hudson River School was a mid-19th century American art movement embodied by a group of landscape painters whose aesthetic vision was influenced by Romanticism. The paintings typically depict the Hudson River Valley and the surrounding area, including the Catskill, Adirondack, and White Mountains.

## The Waterbury Green

Jared Thompson, 1851, oil on canvas.



### Questions for Viewing:

- What do you see?
- What do you think is the inspiration for this quilt?
- What is at this site presently, can you name all that has changed? Is a highway there now, other buildings? Restaurants?
- How does the style of the painting differ from Elsie Rowland Chase? What about Frederic Edwin Church? Peter Poskas?

**Activity:** Create your own Green with our activity sheet! Where should the different buildings go? Why did you make those choices?