

High & Dry – Grades 6-8

Georgia O'Keeffe's landscapes inspire a study of deserts and creation of detailed desert ecosystem drawings.



Directions

Look at a variety of topographical maps and desert photographs. Research the meanings of terms and symbols used to describe the world's deserts. Describe similarities and differences between desert environments and the local environment, citing plant and animal life, temperature, and rainfall, for example.

Study desert scenes painted by Georgia O'Keeffe. Identify elements of desert landscapes depicted in her art. Cover the work surface with newspaper. Experiment with Crayola® Watercolor Paints to create a sand dune effect that shows various planes of landscape. Dry on a flat surface. When dry, add details with Crayola Colored Pencils.

Adaptations

Possible classroom resources include: *Through Georgia's Eyes* by Rachel Victoria Rodriguez; *My Name Is Georgia: A Portrait* by Jeanette Winter by Jeanette Winter; *Georgia O'Keeffe: A Life* by Roxana Robinson. Students investigate the life of Georgia O'Keefe and her approach to art. In their own words, students describe O'Keefe's career influences. Students include a personal response to several self-selected O'Keefe paintings.

Encourage students to investigate additional artists of the Modernists era. Compare and contrast their work with that of O'Keefe. Organze research into an electronic format for presentation to classmates.