

Title	<b>Art and Weather</b>
Overview	This lesson focuses on exterior spaces depicted in works of art. Students practice using vocabulary associated with the weather and time of day. Activities in this section teach students about some of the elements of art (color and line) and about writing descriptions of the weather and time of day.
Grades	Upper Elementary
Subject Area	Visual Arts, English-Language Arts
Objectives	<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orally discuss the weather and time of day being depicted in a work of art.</li> <li>• Write a weather report using vocabulary associated with the weather and time of day.</li> </ul>
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Seven Miles to Salem</i> by George Henry Durrie</li> <li>• <i>The Burning Image</i> by Loren D. Adams Jr.</li> <li>• A weather report from any newspaper</li> <li>• Paper and pencils</li> <li>• Other examples of artwork using cool and warm colors</li> </ul>
Activity Sequence	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Begin by identifying descriptive words associated with the weather (for example, cold, rainy, sunny, humid) and the time of day (for example, morning, afternoon, evening). Ask students to discuss the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe what the weather is like today.</li> <li>• Describe the typical weather in the area you live.</li> <li>• Share what your favorite season is, and why.</li> <li>• Share what your favorite time of day is, and why.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Inform students that colors can be cool or warm. Cool colors include blue, green, and white. Warm colors include red, orange, and yellow.</li> <li>3. Show students <i>Seven Miles to Salem</i> by George Henry Durrie. Ask students the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What colors do you see? Are they cool colors or warm colors?</li> <li>• Describe the weather and time of day in the painting.</li> <li>• What is happening in the picture?</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. As a class, discuss details in the work that give clues about the weather and time of day. Have students provide their thoughts by using the following sentence frame: I think it is _____ because I see _____.</li> <li>5. Repeat the previous two steps with the painting <i>The Burning</i></li> </ol>

*Image.* Discuss how the colors help identify the weather and time of day (i.e., Adams uses reds, oranges, and yellows to show the late afternoon, while Durrie used blue and white to depict a cool climate during the morning or afternoon).

6. As a class, look at a sample weather report from a newspaper. Write out sentences indicating the weather being described. For example, "It is sunny. The weather is 75 degrees." Allow students to choose a piece of art work from several that you have pre-selected. Using their chosen image, have students write their own sample report using the "A Weather Report" student handout.
7. Ask volunteers to read their weather report to the class.



**Seven Miles to Salem by George Henry Durrie**



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**The Burning Image by Loren D. Adams Jr.**

## **Background Information**

### **George Henry Durrie (June 6, 1820- October 15, 1863)**

Born in Hartford, Connecticut, George Durrie was affectionately known by his fellow artists as the “snowman” because of all the winter scenes he painted. Though he originally trained as a portraitist, he soon turned to landscapes and seems to have been the first to realize that snow-covered rural landscapes are more appealing than other seasons, giving birth to a whole new genre of American painting essentially consisting of bleak, wintry scenes of New England. By the 1850’s, his reputation began to grow and he exhibited regularly at the National Academy of Design. Near the end of Durrie’s short life, Currier and Ives began to market hand-colored lithographs of his landscapes which became enormously popular icons of pastoral early America. Ironically, this is a rare case where the name of the printmakers has become more associated with the art than the name of the original artist.

### **Loren D. Adams Jr. (September 28, 1945- present)**

Though he was born in land-locked Linton, Indiana, Loren D. Adams, Jr.’s most popular subject has been the Pacific Ocean, which he first saw at age 6 when his family moved to California. Describing the sight at one which “frightened, terrifies, exhilarated and thrilled” him, Adams was drawn to it when, despite studying at the California Missionary Baptist Institute of Theology, he found himself pursuing a career as an artist. For the next decade, he focused on seascapes and coastal marine landscapes in which he attempted to convey not only the majesty of the sea, but even the actual motion of the waves.

### **Vocabulary and Terms**

Background	Cool Colors	Line	Natural
Color	Decorative Arts	Man-made	Pose
Canvas	Drawing	Medium	Still-life
Composition	Foreground	Middle Ground	Warm Colors

### **Common Core State Standards**

RL.3.7  
RI.3.7  
W.3.2, 3.7, 3.8  
SL.3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 3.6  
L.3.1, 3.2, 3.3

RL.4.7  
RI.4.7  
W.4.2, 4.7, 4.8  
SL.4.1, 4.4  
L.4.1, 4.2, 4.3

RL.5.7  
RI.5.7  
W.5.2, 5.7, 5.8  
SL.5.1, 5.4

L.5.1, 5.2, 5.3

## **Visual Arts Standards**

- Students explore and understand prospective content for works of art
- Students select and use subject matter, symbols, and ideas to communicate meaning
- Students know that the visual arts have both a history and specific relationships to various cultures
- Students identify specific works of art as belonging to particular cultures, times, and places
- Students demonstrate how history, culture, and the visual arts can influence each other in making and studying works of art
- Students understand there are various purposes for creating works of visual art
- Students describe how people's experiences influence the development of specific artworks
- Students understand there are different responses to specific artworks

# **A Weather Report**

# Student Handout

**Title of Painting:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Artist:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hello! My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm  
reporting the news for \_\_\_\_\_.  
The time of day is \_\_\_\_\_ and  
there are \_\_\_\_\_ in the  
sky. The temperature is \_\_\_\_\_.  
Today is the perfect day for people to  
\_\_\_\_\_. Make sure to wear  
your \_\_\_\_\_!**