

# Pre-Visit Guide: (Un)Settled: The Landscape in American Art

## Big Ideas & Major Themes

Here are some relevant topics to review with your students before experiencing these exhibitions.

- American art is as varied and diverse as the country's many natural wonders.
- Art is often reflective of the natural materials and values of the culture that produced it.
- American artists have used landscapes as ways to glorify natural beauty, capture places at particular moments in time, highlight its personal significance, or critique human's impact on the land.



Henry François Farny. *Indian Encampment*, 1911. Oil on canvas. Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts.

## SC Standards Addressed

Visual Art CR.AL.1; R.IL.5.1; R.IM.5.1; R.AL.5.2; R.AM.5.2; C.AM.6; C.AH.7.1  
HG.1.2.PR. HG.4.1.HS, HG.5.1PR, HG.5.2.PR; MWH.1.1.CO, MWH. 4.1.CE,  
MWH.1.E, WH.2.E; EPF.1.ER, EPF.3.1N; OT.1.3, OT.1.4, OT.3.1, OT.3.2,  
OT.3.3, OT.3.4; NT.1.3, NT.2.6, NT.3.1, NT.3.3, NT.3.4  
Social Studies 6.1.P, 6.2.CE, 6.5.CO, 6.5.CE. 6.5.CX, 6.5.CC

## Before Your Visit

Prepare students for your visit with one or more of these activities.

- Look at images of American landscapes together [links below]. Discuss the composition, reviewing terms like foreground and background. Ask students to research one piece and learn more about the place it depicts—its climate, geography, and what it looks like today.
- Look at older or contemporary images of American spaces. Discuss how humans have impacted the landscape, for better or worse.
- Explore indigenous art objects and discuss the importance of material.

## Resources

Want to explore more? Review these references to learn and share information with your students.

- Natural Beauty. <https://www.si.edu/spotlight/landscapes-natural-beauty>
- SAAM Landscapes. [https://americanart.si.edu/search/artworks?content\\_type=artwork&query=landscape](https://americanart.si.edu/search/artworks?content_type=artwork&query=landscape)
- SAAM: Humans and the Environment. <https://americanexperience.si.edu/themes/Humans-and-the-Environment/>
- NMAI Looking at Objects. <https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/informational/learning-to-look-and-object-investigation>

## Museum Manners

School tours are limited to 80 students per visit. Contact the CMA to see whether your group is better suited for an in-person or virtual experience. Please review these guidelines with your students before your tour.

- Touching can permanently damage works of art. Please don't touch the art or lean on the walls.
- Food, drinks, gum, pens, and large bags are not permitted in the galleries.
- Watch where you walk! Try to stay at least arms-length from works of art.
- Groups interested in sketching should consult the sketching guidelines located on the CMA's [Visit page](#).

Questions? Contact us at 803-343-2163 or email [tours@columbiamuseum.org](mailto:tours@columbiamuseum.org)

[columbiamuseum.org/learn](https://columbiamuseum.org/learn)

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