

Simple Perspective

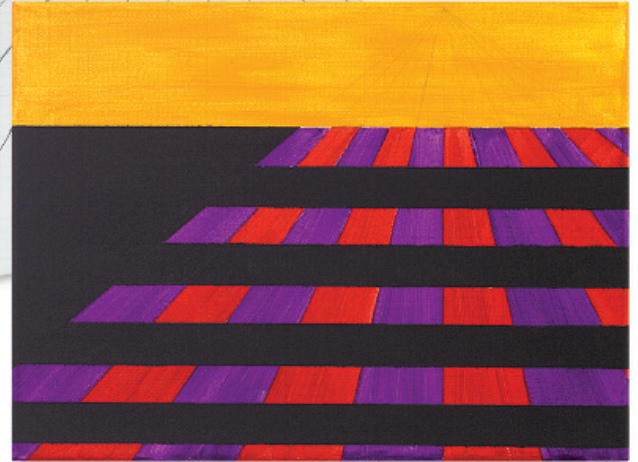
with The Artist's Grid Canvas

For a first lesson in one-point linear perspective, a grid is a perfect tool for beginning painters. It eliminates time spent measuring and marking, allowing students to achieve perfect accuracy on their first try.

Grade Levels 4-12

Process

1. Select a blue horizontal line in the top half of the canvas and trace over it with a pencil. Use a ruler to keep it straight. This is called the *horizon line*. If the student stood in a very flat place or looked out over the ocean, the horizon line would be the line where the sky appears to meet the Earth or water.
2. In the space above the horizon line, choose a point to the right or left of the center of the canvas. Draw a small dot on the point where two blue lines cross. This will be the *vanishing point*, the point where all lines will meet and appear to “vanish” into one spot.
3. With a ruler, find the vertical blue line that the vanishing point is located on and draw a pencil line from the dot to the bottom of the canvas. Count ten blue squares to the right or left of the pencil line and make a small dot on the lower corner of the tenth square. Count ten more squares and make another dot. Continue until the canvas edge is reached. Go back to the first dot and count ten boxes in the opposite direction. Make a dot on every tenth box until the edge of the canvas is reached.
4. Use the ruler to draw pencil lines that connect the dots at the bottom of the canvas with the vanishing point.
5. Younger students begin the painting process at this step. Erase the lines above the horizon line. Students will look at the lines they have drawn and think about what they could be — a road, a pier, an airport runway, or many other things.
6. Older students will continue drawing lines from the vanishing point beyond the edge of the canvas. Notice that the lines that have already been drawn are three squares apart where they touch the



Materials

The Artist's Grid Canvas, 12" x 16" (07155-1216), one per student

Blick® Economy Graphite Pencils, box of 12 (20302-2009), one pencil per student

Blick® Soap Eraser, small (21519-1024), one per student

Blick® Aluminum Ruler, 18", (55430-1018), one per student

Blickrylic® Economy Acrylics (00711-), assorted colors

Blick® Economy Golden Nylon Brushes, cannister of 60 assorted (06219-1060), one brush per student

horizon line. Count three squares from the last line drawn and make points along the horizon line until reaching the edge of the canvas in either direction. Using the ruler, connect the vanishing point to the dots along the horizon line. Keeping the ruler firmly in place, continue the line to the edge. Repeat until all dots are connected.

7. Erase the lines above the horizon line. Students will look at the lines that they have drawn and think about what they could be, then paint a scene or a simple pattern from their perspective drawing.

Options

1. To make a checkerboard or tile floor:
 - Count eight squares up from the bottom of the canvas and draw a horizontal line from the left edge to the right edge.
 - Count seven squares up from that line and make another horizontal line. Continue to the horizon line, making each horizontal line one square closer to the next.

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National Standards

Content Standard #2 — Using knowledge of structures and functions

K-4 Students use visual structures and functions of art to communicate ideas

5-8 Students employ organizational structures and analyze what makes them effective or not effective in the communication of ideas