

Kerpoof Lesson Plan: M.C. Escher's Relativity



Title: M.C. Escher's Relativity

Topic(s): Art, art history, thinking outside the box

Materials and Resources: Kerpoof Introduction to M.C. Escher, Kerpoof M.C. Escher Task Sheet, Recommended Book List

Grades: 4-8



Goal: To help students understand perspective in art.

Desired outcome: Students will be able to create their own Escher-like picture and identify several perspectives in it.

Student Assignment: Use Kerpoof to create their own version of M.C. Escher's "Relativity."

Instruction:

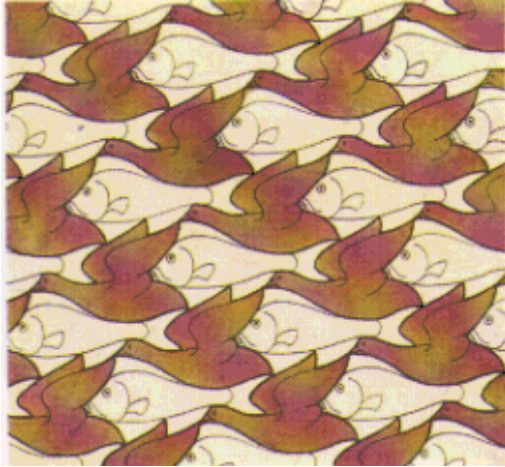
1. Pass out the Kerpoof Introduction to M.C. Escher.
2. Show the provided PowerPoint presentation or read the short biography about Escher aloud, or let a student read it aloud and show examples of Escher's work. (See the list of recommended books.)
3. Look at the drawing "Relativity" as a class. Model the identification of a perspective then ask students to come up and identify one of the perspectives shown by pointing to the side of the drawing that would be the "bottom" based on the part they are looking at. For instance, they could say "This (pointing) is the bottom of the drawing because this person (pointing) is sitting here outside."
4. Pass out the Kerpoof M.C. Escher Task Sheet
5. Go to the computer lab.
6. Have the students create their own Escher-style artwork using the M.C. Escher Kerpoof scene.
 - a. Be sure that the students create their artwork using at least three perspective points.
 - b. Back in the classroom, ask the students to re-draw the picture from the "correct" point of perspective. The "correct" point of perspective may be which ever point of perspective the student feels is correct.
 - c. Have the students write a 4-5 sentence story about their picture that they just drew.
 - d. Have the students read their stories out loud to the class.
 - e. Ask the students which perspective they think is the most correct. Explain to the students that there is no true "up" in this picture. The picture is an example of how the rules of reality need not apply to art and anything is possible.
 - f. Ask the students if they can think of any other places where there is no "up." Answers could include space, planets, the center of the Earth, etc.



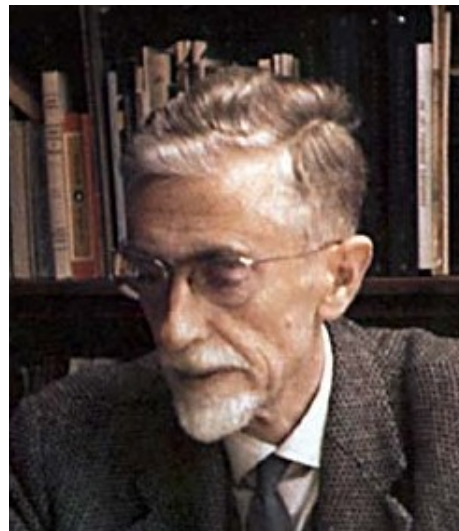
Kerpoof Introduction to M.C. Escher



Maurits Cornelis Escher (M.C. Escher) was born in 1898 in the Netherlands. In art school, he learned how to make woodcuts. Woodcuts are pieces of wood that have a picture cut into them. Ink is spread over the cut wood. Then paper is pressed against it. When the paper is pulled off of the wood, there is a picture on it. Escher is most famous for his woodcuts of impossible shapes and tessellations. A tessellation is a picture that fits into itself like a puzzle piece like Escher's famous Fish Bird Montage below. Escher made hundreds of pictures. M.C. Escher died in 1972.



www.dartmouth.edu



www.meridian.net



Kerpoof M.C. Escher Task Sheet



- Go to <http://www.kerpoof.com>.
- Click on the “Make a Picture” button.
- Click on the scene that looks like an empty room with windows and stairs.
- Use the objects to create a picture similar to M.C. Escher’s “Relativity.” Be sure that your picture looks “correct” from at least three perspectives.
- Back in the classroom, decide which perspective from your picture is most “correct” and draw it.
- Write a four-five sentence story about your drawing.



M.C. Escher: Recommended Books



Title: The Magic Mirror of M.C. Escher

Author: Bruno Ernst

Publication Date: February 1995

Publisher: Taschen America, LLC

ISBN: 1-886155-00-3

ISBN 13: 978-1-886155-00-8

Title: M.C. Escher: Life and Work

Author: J.L. Locher

Publication Date: September 1992

Publisher: Harry N. Abrams, Inc.

ISBN: 0-8109-8113-0

ISBN 13: 978-0-8109-8113-3

Title: Masters of Deception: Escher, Dalí and the Artists of Optical Illusion

Author: Al Seckel

Publication Date: August 2007

Publisher: Sterling Publishing Co., Inc.

ISBN: 1-4027-5101-X

ISBN 13: 978-1-4027-5101-1

Title: M.C. Escher: 29 Masterworks

Author: Maurits Cornelis Escher

Publication Date: April 1983

Publisher: Harry N. Abrams, Inc.

ISBN: 0-8109-2268-1

ISBN 13: 978-0-8109-2268-6

