

# Perspective from the Bayou Drawing & Watercolor Lesson

K–12th Grade

**Materials:**  
Watercolor paper  
Pencil  
Watercolor paints  
Brushes  
Water bucket

**Optional:**  
White pre-cut mats  
Painters tape

## Introduction:

Ask for a show of hands. Who has ever been to the bayou? Has anyone ever ridden in a boat? Great, we're going to learn how to draw a scene from the bayou today. The art terms we are going to work on today are vanishing point, horizon line and one point perspective. This lesson also focuses on lines. Tell the students if they can draw a line they will be able to draw the landscape today. Finally, before beginning define the terms horizontal, vertical and diagonal. Use the example and point to the horizontal, vertical and diagonal lines found in the drawing. These terms will be used throughout the lesson.

## Lesson:

1. Turn your paper landscape (horizontal). Use a pencil to lightly mark the vanishing point about 3/4 of the way down from the top. Note, keep pencil marks light enough so that they can be erased or painted over once the sketch is complete.
2. Lightly draw the horizon line across the vanishing point.
3. Draw diagonal lines to the vanishing point indicating the tree line, water line and reflection. This creates a one point perspective.
4. Using the horizontal and diagonal lines as a guide lightly work in the detail of the photo. Such as the tree line, grass and reflection in the water.
5. Finally use watercolors to paint the bayou landscape.
6. Optional—to give the project a finished look mat the work using painters tape to attach.

