

## “Grant Wood Ceramic Landscapes”



**Objective:** Create a landscape in the style of Grant Wood using basic clay techniques.

### Materials

- Grant Wood Visual References
- Pencils and Sketch Paper
- Earthenware Clay and Clay Tools
- Glaze or Paint

### Motivation

- Have students view different works of art by Grant Wood
- Present background information about Grant Wood, perhaps by reading the [Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artists: Grant Wood](#) book.
- Watch the video [Dropping in On Grant Wood](#).

### Step 1: Introduction and Sketch

Introduce the artist Grant Wood. Show examples of the landscapes he created. Have students draw a sketch of a landscape in the style of Grant Wood.

### Step 2: Create 3D Landscapes

Demonstrate how to roll a coil and ball and how to form a cube to make the trees, buildings, and other objects. Cut a each student a slab of clay approximately ½ inch thick. Have students wad up paper towels and place under the slabs to create hills. Students will then combine building techniques to create the details of the landscape.

Discuss the various patterns seen in the landscapes in Grant Wood paintings. Pattern examples include shingles on a barn or house, rows of crops, and patterns on trees. Using various tools, have students make patterns and textures in their landscapes.

### Step 3: Add Color

Have student add color to their landscapes using paint or glaze. If you use tempera paint or acrylic paint, putting a clear varnish on top gives it the look of glaze.

**Tip:** I allow four days for this project: one for the introduction, one for sketching and two to create the landscape from clay. An extra day is needed to add color after firing.

**Tip:** Have students write their names on the landscapes using pasta alphabet noodles.