



THE MEMORY BOX

CITYSCAPES



IDEAS AND ISSUES TO EXPLORE WITH YOUR CLASS: VISUAL ARTS

CITYSCAPES

Examine the two cityscapes (p1) carefully:

- Do you recognise any buildings in either frame?
- Can you find out how many bridges span the river Liffey and which bridges have been built in the past decade?
- Can you find a photograph or an image that would show the bridges at night, when they're lit from underneath?
- Find out about Liberty Hall and why/when it was given its name. What is it used for now?
- Did you notice the Spire and the ornate street-lamps in the film? See if you can find a photograph or image of the Five Lamps in Dublin's North Strand and study them carefully – do you know anything about these famous lamps?
- Compare and contrast the Dublin cityscape with that of Lagos – note the sky colour in each and the number and height of the buildings.
- What can you see in the bottom right-hand and left-hand corners of the image of Lagos? Why do you think there are so many yellow taxis in this scene and what might the number of taxis tell us about transport in Lagos? (In the Dublin scene we can see quite a few private cars and buses.)

LOOKING AND RESPONDING:

The work of MC Escher is available in Taschen Portfolio www.taschen.com. Examine perspective in works such as 'Cycle' (1938), 'Another World' (1947) and 'Print Gallery' (1956).

HOT AND COLD CITIES

In groups, or with partners, choose cities that you think might be represented in warm colours (eg reds, yellows, oranges) and those you think might better be represented in cold colours (eg blues and greys). Then find an image of your chosen city – you might choose Venice with its canals, or St Petersburg, also known as the 'Venice of the North' because it too is built on water. Which colours would you choose to represent each of these two cities? If you were to paint these cities as you think they appear in summer and again in the winter months, would the colours you choose differ and, if so, in what way?

MAKING A STREETSCAPE

Draw an outline of a town or village on a roll of wallpaper, and ask each child or group of children to draw or paint one home which they should stick on to the wallpaper. People and/or family groups might be added to the street – these might variously stand in gardens, or on communal green areas, or in a playground area, or at the corner of the street.

BUILDING SKETCHES

Look at David Hockney's painting 'California Bank' and examine closely his use of blocks of strips and squares.

–Choose a photograph of a building you like, or select a building from either the Dublin city image or the Nigerian city frame and sketch the outline.

–Concentrate your attention on a section of the building – block out the other buildings from your view using a viewfinder or a 'window' made of 4cm strips of paper.

–Using different shapes to represent windows, fill in the details of the building.

You might develop this idea by enlarging the sketches on to A3 paper and outlining them with a fine felt-tipped pen. Using oils or oil pastels, paint the sketches in bright colours to create a striking design. Cut out sections and stick to the sides of boxes of different sizes and shapes to create a city of colourful buildings.

MACKINTOSH AND GAUDI – ART NOUVEAU: COMPARE AND CONTRAST

Charles Rennie Mackintosh was a Scottish architect and designer. His style was a contrast between strong right angles and floral-inspired, curved decorative motifs. The project that helped make his international reputation was the Glasgow School of Art (1897-1909).

Antoni Gaudi from Reus, near Barcelona, lived around the same time. His work was greatly influenced by forms of nature, with curved construction stones, twisted iron sculptures, and organic forms. He also decorated many of his buildings with coloured tiles arranged in mosaic patterns, adding another important dimension – a vivid use of colour.

- Find images of buildings by these architects and compare the elements of their designs.

