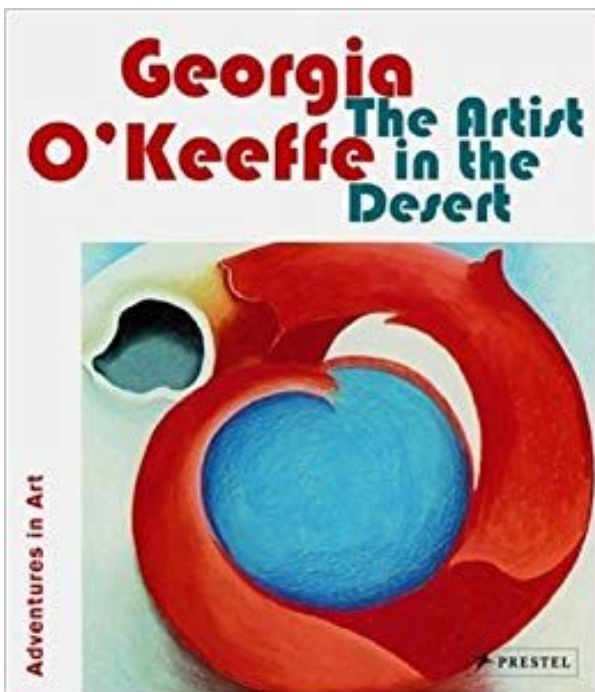


# Georgia O'Keeffe

## The Artist in the Desert



# Georgia O'Keeffe

## New Mexico Landscape - *Pedernal* 1942

Landscape painting on paper using Tempera paint

- ★ This month we will focus on the artist Georgia O'Keeffe, and her studies of Cerro Pedernal, a flat topped unique mountain near the New Mexico town of Abiquiu. O'Keeffe referred to it as her mountain. Today people often refer to the land formation as O'Keeffe's Mountain.
- ★ Our paintings will look at the tints and shades of blue for the mountain and sky as well as incorporating the warm yellow colors of desert sands, red and rust colors of the ground and hills, as well as the various shades of green for the trees in the foreground.
- ★ This lesson will incorporate the book *Georgia O'Keeffe - The Artist in the Desert*
  - This book has great background on the artist and her life. Pages 14-18 discuss her relationship with the desert and Pedernal.

Let's get ready to paint!

# Georgia O'Keeffe

## New Mexico Landscape - *Pedernal* 1942

### Supplies Needed:

1. Classroom Name Labels
2. Landscape paper
3. Pencils
4. Paper plates for paint
5. Brushes
6. Tempera Paint colors:
  - a. Blue
  - b. Red
  - c. Yellow
  - d. Orange
  - e. Green
  - f. Brown
  - g. Black and white for tinting (optional - 5th grade only)
7. Red Cups for water
8. Paper plates for paint palettes
9. Paper Towels for brush cleaning between colors
10. Baby wipes for clean up
11. Book - Georgia O'Keeffe The Artist in the Desert  
(optional supplemental instruction material if time allows.)

# Georgia O'Keeffe

## New Mexico Landscape - *Pedernal* 1942

### Instructions:

1. First, place the student name labels on the backside of the paper.  
Please make sure that the students have their paper in landscape position to ensure they have enough room to complete the project.
2. Draw lightly in pencil a mesa shape in the top third of the page. Make sure to let students know it needs to be toward the top of the background to have enough room for all the foreground details.
3. Draw lightly in pencil the rolling hills at the base of the mesa. Draw a slightly wavy line in the middle point between the hills you have just created and the bottom of the page.
4. Have students paint the mesa (top line), the hills (middle line), and sand as well as adding trees or grasses to the foreground (bottom of page). Clouds can be added to the sky as well. Rinse and wipe off brushes between colors.
5. Older students can work on creating different tints and shades of the colors that create the elements of the painting by mixing base colors with white or black.
6. Feel free to read the book or sections of the book either before the students begin work as a way to set the lesson or during the actual painting time if that works better for you.

# Georgia O'Keeffe

## New Mexico Landscape - *Pedernal* 1942

### Tips and Hints:

1. It is helpful for students to see examples of the project already completed. Sometimes it helps to walk around with the examples to the student tables, so they can see them more closely than just placing them up on the whiteboards.
2. Don't be afraid to have one facilitator complete the project step by step with the students using the teacher's overhead projector. The kids really enjoy having an adult paint with them. Also, don't be self conscious of your art, this is all about enjoying and sharing art, not perfect technique.
3. For younger classes, it may help to draw first, collect up the pencils, then distribute the paint one color at a time. This helps keep paints distinct.
4. Make sure you remind students to rinse brushes and then wipe them off with a paper towel to keep colors vibrant.
5. If you would like to create a tint of a color, such as a lighter blue for the sky, add blue to white for an easier time making lighter values of a color. The reverse is true for making shades, add black to the color you would like to change to a darker value.