

Check Your Understanding

Answer a few questions about the history of perspective before moving on to learn the technical points of how perspective is created in art.

1.) What is perspective?

Answer

In art, perspective is a technique used to represent space and depth on a flat surface. It helps artists create realistic representations of whatever they are drawing or painting.

2.) What was a more important goal of early artists than realistic representation?

Answer

It was more important to represent power and importance. In ancient art, the main subject (usually a king or a god) would be painted larger than everything else.

3.) What was a more important goal of early artists than realistic representation?

Answer

Most people agree that the ancient Greeks were the first people to start trying to create perspective in art.

4.) Who created the first system of perspective in painting?

Answer

In the Dark and Middle Ages, culture and education were not high priorities. Also, most art from the time was focused on religion, so the goal was once again to show power and importance, not realistic representations of life.

5.) Why was perspective ignored during the Dark and Middle Ages?

Answer

During the Renaissance, artists rediscovered and perfected perspective. There was a focus on giving forms realistic shapes, and modern oil paint was invented.