

Pastel Landscape

Resource &
Study Guide



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Pastel Landscape: Supplies



There are many different sources for art supplies, and many different products available. In fact, it can be somewhat daunting to try to decide which supplies to start with. Here are links to the supplies that I use in this tutorial. The products listed below are good to start with. If you continue working with pastels, you may want to experiment with other brands, but these will get you going with minimal expense.

SUPPLIES:

- Pastel paper: <http://www.dickblick.com/products/strathmore-400-series-pastel-paper-pads/>
(You can also use construction paper, but it tends to be brittle and tear easily.)
- Soft pastels: <http://www.dickblick.com/products/alphacolor-soft-pastels/> (Tip: Buy the largest set you can afford.)
- Blending Stumps: <http://www.dickblick.com/products/gray-paper-stumps/>
- Tortillons: <http://www.dickblick.com/products/tortillons/>
- Foam rubber whiteboard eraser (great for blending):
https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00RGJ8CTY/ref=oh_aui_detailpage_o03_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1

- Sofft Tools (foam blenders): <http://www.dickblick.com/products/panpastel-sofft-tools/>
- Makeup applicator wedge (for blending chalk): <http://www.walmart.com/ip/Wonder-Wedge-Cosmetic-Wedge-100-ea/50441371>

Source Photo: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/green-grass-field-under-grey-clear-sky-overlooking-mountains-115547/>

Pastel Landscape: Bible Lesson



Introduction:

I love painting and drawing hills and mountains. Growing up in western Pennsylvania, near the Allegheny (pronounced: al-a-gay-nee) Mountains, I saw “hills” every time we drove into Pittsburgh. But it wasn’t until my first trip to Colorado that I looked up, awestruck, at the majesty of the Rocky Mountains.

Mountains remind me about God’s strength and power, and also of his majesty.

The Bible talks a lot about mountains and hills, and one of my favorite “mountain passages” is Psalm 121. In this psalm, the mountains—or the journey through them—is a cause for worry. That is when the psalmist remembers that God is the one who protects him.

Bible Reading: Psalm 121:1-8

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from?

² My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

³ He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber;

⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

⁷ The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life;

⁸ the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. (Psalms 121, NIV)

Memory Verse:

I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from?² My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. (Psalms 121:1-2, NIV-1984)

Devotional Thought:

When I was in high school, I got onto the bad side of a group of bullies. At the time I worked in our town's public library, and I caught one of them using a cigarette to burn a bad word into the curtains behind the book stacks. As an employee of the library, I knew it was my responsibility to report him. And as a Christian, I knew it was the right thing to do.

But I also knew there might be consequences for me.

The bullies told me they'd be waiting for me.

I was scared to death when I left the library that evening, but even more scared to face the next day at school.

Psalms 121 and a few other psalms were what I kept in my mind as I went to school the next day. I didn't know what would happen to me. I figured I'd probably get beaten up. Thankfully, that didn't happen. But I knew that I was going to trust God no matter what happened.

In Psalm 121, the psalmist is reassuring Israel that God will keep them and protect them. This psalm is sometimes called a psalm of *ascents*. It was one of fifteen songs that people would sing as they ascended (climbed) the hills to Jerusalem to worship God.

Often the journey to Jerusalem was dangerous. There could be robbers hiding on the road, ready to attack people as they walked along. You could slip and fall along the way. There was the danger of animals attacking at night. Even traveling under the hot sun could be dangerous.

In verse 1, the psalmist is looking toward the hills and thinking about his trip to Jerusalem, to Mount Zion, and as he considers the dangers, he asks a question: "Where does my help come from?"

As soon as he asks that question, the psalmist answers it: "My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth."

The rest of this psalm reminds us that our God is watching over us for our good. The word translated "watches over," in the NIV is often translated *keep* or *protect* in other versions. Six times in this short psalm, we are told that God *watches over, keeps, or protects* us.

Keep in mind that this psalm isn't a guarantee that nothing bad will ever happen to us. Sadly, in this fallen world bad things happen—even to Christians. But it is a promise that God will be with us always and that we can trust him no matter what happens.

When I faced the bullies the next day, God was with me, and I was glad that I had someone I could trust—even in the hard times.

Review:

1. How many times does the psalm tell us that God is “watching over” us? (Answer: 6)
2. How do other versions translate the phrase: *watching over*? (keeps, protects)
3. In verse 2, how does the psalmist describe God? (Maker of Heaven and Earth)
4. Why was the psalmist worried as he looked into the hills? (There were many dangers in traveling: robbers, animals, the heat)
5. How long does God promise to watch over us? (Now and forever)

Digging Deeper (Discussion & Application):

1. Why is it important that God neither slumbers nor sleeps?
2. What do you think the psalmist means when he describes God as *the shade at your right hand*?
3. Is there anything that you are afraid of right now? Can you trust God to protect you?

Art Appreciation & History: Vincent van Gogh



Why am I including Vincent van Gogh as the focus for art appreciation and art history in this e-book? One reason is that van Gogh is my favorite artist. But here are some additional reasons why he fits in very well with our Pastel Landscape project.

Although Vincent van Gogh was not primarily a pastel artist, his style of bright colors and bold brush strokes are reminiscent of the approach many pastel painters use. Another reason I've included him is that van Gogh loved to paint landscapes, and he preferred to paint what he saw (as opposed to using his imagination). He was a remarkable artist who, sadly, did not live to see the powerful impact his work has had on art.

Read on for some fast facts about Vincent van Gogh, along with links to websites for further study.

Fast Facts about Vincent van Gogh: [Click the underlined links for source information and further study.]

- His father was [a pastor, and for a time Vincent considered going into pastoral ministry.](#)

- He lived from [1853 to 1890](#) and committed suicide when he was only 37.
- He was mostly [self-taught](#).
- Unless your native language is Dutch, his last name is almost impossible to pronounce correctly. [But it isn't pronounced van-go. It's more like fawn-hokh.](#) (And even that isn't strictly accurate!)
- His career as an artist lasted only about 10 years, [and in that time he produced over 900 paintings](#).
- He averaged [one painting a day](#) in the last two months of his life.
- He is classified as a [post-impressionist](#).
- There are differing accounts about why van Gogh cut off his ear (earlobe, actually), and what led up to that event. YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/zxzbJRuwiQc>

Check out these websites to learn more about Vincent van Gogh and view his art:

- <http://www.biography.com/people/vincent-van-gogh-9515695>
- <http://www.vangoghgallery.com/>
- <https://www.vangoghmuseum.nl/en>
- http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/gogh/hd_gogh.htm
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/magazinemonitor/2010/01/how_to_say_van_gogh.shtml
- <https://youtu.be/zxzbJRuwiQc> (Why van Gogh cut off his ear)
- <http://www.vggallery.com/index.html>