



WRITING PROMPTS FOR APRIL
 Use the facts of history to write your reactions or reports.
 Each of the events took place on these days in April.

<p>April 1 1700</p> <p>Known as April Fool's Day (Why?) English pranksters begin making this tradition popular by playing practical jokes on one another</p>	<p>The best joke that was ever played on me was.....</p>
<p>1929</p> <p>New York inventor Louis Marx invents the yo-yo.</p>	<p>I just love my favorite toy. It.....</p>
<p>April 2 1879</p> <p>The first commercial telephone service using toll lines links Springfield and Holyoke, Massachusetts, towns about 8 miles apart.</p>	<p>The world is changing, and I can only make one more phone call.....</p>
<p>1513</p> <p>Ponce de Leon sets foot on Florida.</p>	<p>"All for Spain!" shouted.....</p>
<p>April 3 1312 BC</p> <p>This is the tradition date given for the parting of the Red Sea when the Israelites fled Egypt. By the Hebrew calendar, it was 21 Nissan, 2448</p>	<p>Our family stood on the edge of the water. Behind us we could hear the faint sounds of the Egyptian army. Ahead of us we could only see waves and deep, dark water. Then Moses raised his rod.....</p>
<p>April 4 1812</p> <p>In the Netherlands, Casparus van Wooden patents chocolate milk powder.</p>	<p>The best drink in the world is...</p>
<p>April 5 1923</p> <p>Lord Carnarvon, one of the discoverers of the tomb of Tutankhamen, dies of a mysterious illness. People begin to talk of "the mummy's curse".</p>	<p>Ben had heard of "the mummy's curse". Now, as he stared at the unopened tomb, he</p>
<p>April 6 1896</p> <p>The first modern Olympic Games open in Athens before a crowd of 60,000 spectators.</p>	<p>The Olympic Games were ready to start. This year, for the first time, people would participate in a new sport called.....</p>
<p>April 7 1827</p> <p>English pharmacist John Walker, makes the first sale of his invention, the friction match.</p>	<p>We looked at the raw food and knew we had to find some way to cook it. But how would we do it?</p>
<p>April 8 1879</p> <p>A New York dairy introduces the latest in modern milk packaging: glass bottles.</p>	<p>In my life, I have seen milk in many different containers.....</p>
<p>April 9 1859</p> <p>Samuel Langhorne Clemens, age 23, receives his license to pilot steamboats on the Mississippi River. He piloted steamboats until the American Civil War broke out in 1861. Then he began to write stories, and took the name "Mark Twain".</p>	<p>The reason Mark Twain took this name was.....</p>





April 10 1955	Jonas Salk successfully tests his polio vaccine.	Mrs. Smith stood crying. She had just come from the funeral of her daughter, Betsy, who had died from polio. Would her other children catch the disease also. Then her husband came in with the news.....
April 11 1689	William and Mary are crowned King and Queen of Britain and Ireland.	Dear Grandmother, Today I was honored to see the coronation of our beloved William and Mary. Let me describe the occasion....
April 12 1861	The American Civil War begins when Confederate guns fire on the Union-held Fort Sumter.	Dear Mike, Today, there were shots fired on the fort. I am afraid that.....
April 13 1796	The first elephant ever to set foot in America arrives in New York from India. It impresses people by pulling a cork from a bottle with its trunk.	Dear Ma, I have seen rats and dogs and horses and even pigs here in New York, but you will never believe what I saw today.....
April 14 1865	President Abraham Lincoln is shot at a play at Ford's Theater in Washington, DC	The world changed after Abraham Lincoln was shot.....
April 15 1947	The first African-American to play on a major league baseball team steps onto Ebbets Field to play his first game with the Brooklyn Dodgers. His name: Jackie Robinson	For the first time ever, young Joe saw a black man step on to the field. He held his breath.....
April 16 1705	Isaac Newton becomes the first scientist to be honored with knighthood.	News flash: Isaac Newton, renowned scientist, has now become Sir Isaac Newton. Queen Anne knighted him because.....
April 17 1790	Benjamin Franklin dies at age 84.	Write a short report about just one of the things Ben Franklin was famous for.
April 18 1912	The ship <i>Carpathia</i> arrives in New York carrying survivors of the <i>Titanic</i> , which sank three days before.	Write a newspaper interview of one of the survivors of the <i>Titanic</i> sinking.
April 19 1994	A massive explosion destroys the Federal Building in Oklahoma City.	Many people died when this building exploded. What could you do to help the victims of disasters?
April 20 1191	Crusading French King Phillip II arrives with his fleet to reinforce the siege of Acre. English King Richard the Lion-Heart joins him three weeks later.	King Richard the Lion-Hearted is asking people to join his Crusade. I decided that.....





April 21 1878	America gets its first firehouse pole, which was installed in New York City	The alarm rung out shrilly and loudly, and the spotted fire dog began to bark. Sounds of running feet were heard as the firemen headed for the pole...
April 22 1886	At noon, tens of thousands of settlers stream onto a 2 million acre tract of Oklahoma Territory to claim cheap land.	Suzie looked across the plain with awe. As far as she could see, there were people and wagons and oxen and horses and bundles and bags and dogs. Any minute now, the signal would be given, and.....
April 23 1509	Two days after the death of his father, 17-year-old Henry is crowned Henry VIII of England. Henry VIII is famous for his wives, and for breaking away from the Catholic Church.	Now England has a teen-age King! What would <i>you</i> do if you were made a King or Queen right now?
April 24 1936	The first unplanned TV broadcast took place. The film was of firemen responding to a fire in Camden, NJ.	Today, it seems like everything is filmed. What things do you think should NOT be shown on TV?
April 25	The first known AIDS patient checks into an English hospital and later dies. It takes 20 YEARS before his condition is diagnosed from tissue samples.	What could we do to help the children of AIDS patients in Africa and other countries?
April 26 1804	Thousands of meteorite fragments shower the French town of L'Aigle, proving to everyone that stones could come from outer space.	Pretend you are living in 1804 and looking up at the sky on this night. Hundreds of light streaks are lighting up the sky. What would you think was happening, and what do you think this means?
April 27 4977 BC	According to Johannes Kepler, the universe was created on this day.	Do you think that the world could have been created on this date? Why or why not?
April 28 70	Having been driven back earlier, Roman legions under Titus retake Jerusalem's middle wall and destroy it.	Jesus predicted that the temple would be destroyed. Find this Bible passage and copy it or rewrite it.
April 29 1998	Brazil sets aside 2.5 million acres of the Amazon rain forest for conservation.	Pretend you are walking through the rain forest. You discover a new plant or animal species. Draw this species and tell about it.
April 30 1789	George Washington is sworn in as the first president of the United States in New York City.	How do you think we should honor the first President today?





ART LESSON

Claude Monet's "Garden at Sainte-Adresse".



"Garden at Sainte Adresse", Claude Monet 1867, oil on canvas 98 x 130 cm, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York USA.

Sainte Adresse is a location close to Le Havre.

Painting Description :

Sainte-Adresse is a small town on the Channel coast of Normandy near Le Havre. Monet depicts members of his family living at Sainte Adresse, his cousin, his aunt, and his father, Adolphe, who is seated in the foreground. On the background Monet shows many steamers as to pay a tribute to modernity. The painting has many lines, vertical, horizontal, and diagonal.





Biographical sketch:

Claude Monet was born in 1840. He helped invent the type of painting called Impressionism. Instead of trying to make things look extremely real, impressionists use bright colors and light. The painters try to paint their "impressions" or "feelings" of an object rather than every detail.

Claude Monet painted many famous paintings. He loved nature scenes, and often did a series of different views of one thing such as water lilies or haystacks. This lesson explores his painting - "Garden at Sainte-Adresse". The concept of using strong vertical, horizontal, and diagonal line is introduced, and the students will create their own garden by the sea utilizing a similar composition design.

This site has the Monet paintings organized into different categories.

Claude Monet Paintings available as posters and prints:

<http://www.intermonet.com/oeuvre/>

Time needed for lesson:

2-3 periods depending on the group of students

Objectives:

Students will:

- establish their own design utilizing a similar composition to Monet's.
- integrate their drawing skills in creating a "garden by the sea".
- utilize strong vertical, horizontal, and diagonal line within their compositions.
- incorporate their skills of establishing foreground, middle ground, and background in their composition.

What You Need:

- Display size reproduction of Monet's "Garden at Sainte-Adresse"
- 12"x18" white drawing paper
- Pencils
- Erasers
- Oil pastels or crayons





Procedure:

1. Review the concept of foreground, middle ground, and background on the picture plane.
 - a. Instruct the students to lightly establish these 3 areas by drawing 2 light horizontal lines on their papers.
2. Point out Monet's use of horizontal line (horizon of the ocean, the wooden fence in the garden), vertical line (flag poles, tall standing flowers), and diagonal line (patio).
3. Instruct the students to create their own "garden by the sea"
 - a. Remind the students they must establish strong vertical, diagonal and horizontal lines.

Hint: The lines can be almost anything, trees, houses, roads, etc.
 - b. Students can depict any type of scene, but they must include flowers and water.
4. Students must show their pencil drawings before using oil pastels or crayons.

Evaluation/Assessment

- Did the student use strong diagonal, horizontal, and vertical line in his/her design?
- Were flowers and water incorporated into the composition?
- Did the student establish a foreground, middle ground, and background on the picture plane?





Art Lesson: FOLK ART WEATHER VANE

Grade: 4-8



Objectives:

Students will be directed to observe weather vanes and discuss their purpose and history.

Students will discover the history of weather vanes.

Students will create a small weather vane from cardboard or wood.

Students will discover that art is used in functional objects.

Background:

A weathervane lets folks know which way the wind is blowing. The earliest weathervanes were very simple carvings of animals such as fish and roosters. Eventually, more designs began to emerge as arrows, cows, pigs and angels started to appear on rooftops all across North America. They often have directional letters beneath them.

Traditionally, weathervanes were made from sheets of metal such as copper or tin or they were carved out of wood. Today, they are still made out of the same materials. You can create a miniature weather vane using several techniques ranging from cardboard cut-outs to paper mache. For this particular weathervane, you can use cardboard or foamboard - especially if you are working with a classroom full of young artists. If you have the facilities - and the time however, you could try this project with wood (if you have a scroll saw and a steady hand).

What You Need:

- Thick cardboard (or thin wood - if you choose) & pencils
- Scissors or a scroll saw (depending on the material you choose to use)
- Paint or other method of finishing your weathervane
- Paintbrush, water, containers etc.
- A small piece of dowel or a stick and a piece of wood to act as a stand





What You Do:

1. First, have a look at some actual weathervanes or pictures of weathervanes, to give yourself an idea of what direction you would like to go in terms of design.
2. A place for simple patterns: <http://www.folkartlife.com/patterns.shtml>
3. Next, draw a simple outline of a rooster, pig, cow, or whatever you like, on your cardboard (or wood).
4. Cut out the shape and decorate using one of any number of paints or finishes.
5. If you don't have access to fancy finishes from the craft store, simply layer different colors of paint on your weathervane and sand lightly between coats. This way, the colors beneath will peek through the colors above - giving you some depth and texture.
6. Once your design and painting is complete, attach to a wooden dowel (you can also apply the same finishing medium to the dowel) and attach that to a block of wood. (Drill a hole in your wood block, apply some glue and fit the dowel in the hole). In fact, why not take your block of wood and cut it into a circular shape ... even more interesting would be to create a miniature rooftop using two blocks of wood attached together in a triangle.
7. The possibilities are endless.

Resources:

[Folk Art @ About.com](#)

KinderArt's Jantje Blokhuis-Mulder has loads of folk art resources and patterns for you.





A Brief History of Weather Vanes

The earliest recorded weather vane honored the Greek god Triton, and adorned the Tower of the Winds in Athens in 48 B.C. The figure had the head and torso of a man and the tail of a fish. To ancient people, the winds had divine powers. In Greece and Rome, weather vanes showing the gods would decorate the homes of the wealthy.



Archaeologists have discovered bronze Viking weather vanes from the 9th century. They have an unusual quadrant shape, usually topped by an animal or creature from Norse fable. They were commonly used on Viking ships, and were also popular on Scandinavian

churches.

The Bible tells that Peter denied that he knew Jesus three times, until a rooster crowed. At the last supper, Jesus had predicted Peter's denial and the rooster crowing. In the ninth century A.D., a pope reportedly said that every church in Europe should show a rooster on its dome or steeple, as a reminder of this. Because of this story, "weather cocks" have topped church steeples for centuries, both in Europe and in America.



The word "vane" actually comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "fane", meaning "flag". Originally, fabric pennants would show the archers the direction of the wind. Later, the cloth flags were replaced by metal ones, decorated with the insignia or coat of arms of the lord or nobleman, and balanced to turn in the wind. From these beginnings came the banners which the early American colonists favored for their meeting halls and public buildings.





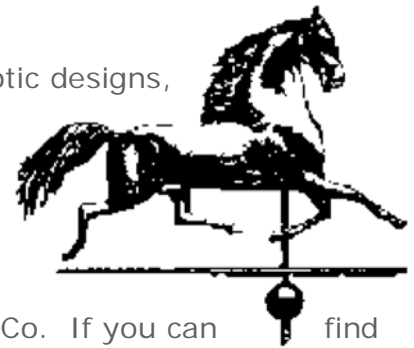
America's first documented weather vane maker, Deacon Shem Drowne, created the famous grasshopper vane atop Boston's Faneuil Hall (1742), as well as the banner for Boston's Old North Church (1740), the rooster now on First Church in Cambridge (orig. 1721), and the large copper Indian for Boston's Province House (1716). Thomas Jefferson attached the weather vane on Monticello to a pointer in the ceiling of the room directly below, so he could read the direction of the wind from inside his home. And George Washington commemorated the end of the

Revolutionary War by commissioning a "*Dove of Peace*" weather vane from Joseph Rakestraw in 1787, for his estate at Mount Vernon.

In the early 1800's, Americans favored weather vanes in patriotic designs, including the Goddess of Liberty, and of course, the American Eagle. By the middle of the century, vanes of famous racing horses were being modeled after the popular Currier and Ives prints. In the 19th century, there were many weather vane manufacturers mass-producing vanes in dozens of designs.

Some of the more famous makers were L. W. Cushing, J. W.

Fiske, Harris & Co., A. L. Jewell & Co., and E. G. Washburne & Co. If you can find weathervanes made by these companies, they sell for hundreds of dollars.



Today there are many manufacturers of weathervanes. You can find designs from ducks to sailboats to golfers. You can even have them custom designed to anything you would like. What kind of weathervane would best tell about you?