

For Ses #2 SP 713

Perspective Activity

Reflect on the class activity with noticing relationships of size and position among things as you see them while putting yourself and a viewframe in different locations. You might take more care in checking out something about these relationships. How might you represent what you see? What tools or techniques or other aids do you find yourself using or improvising as you sight, compare and document relationships?

Relate your experiences to the illustrations of sighting practices reproduced below. These illustrators and/or their texts were known to Galileo who was an elected member of the Academy of Design in Florence. Guidobaldo de Monte, who innovated perspective demonstrations as mathematics, was a mentor for Galileo; artist Lodovico Cigoli learned perspective from him, conducted telescopic observations in support of Galileo's, and painted the Virgin Mary on a telescopically viewed moon in a chapel in Rome. (The figures are from *The science of art*, Martin Kemp. Yale University Press, 1990, on reserve at Barker.)

Under **Perspective**, In Instruments and Science Veltman, go through the discussion of instruments, particularly noting the discussion of mirror, window, compass and ruler;

In Sources ..Linear Perspective Vol.1 Veltman, look through the opening remarks of the Introduction (Beginnings/childhood) about the 15 year old's experience and the closing comments in Epilogue, to get a sense of Veltman's project, his findings about diversity in what has arisen around perspective across history and culture, and his conclusion that:

the true significance of linear perspective: [is] not simply as a tool for realism, but as a catalyst to our imagination, playfulness, creativity and freedom.

Reflect on how these historical instruments and works add to your experiences in looking, recording, and learning from what you see in the world.

Galileo Story

For an overview orientation:

Under **Galileo Links**, under Galileo Project, look at Biography, Chronology

Select from these readings on the class website Materials:

Under **Galileo Biography**

Galileo's Daughter, part 1, Dava Sobel, 1999. Describes Galileo's family life, early work, including with the telescope.

"Galileo, a biographical sketch", Stillman Drake, in *Galileo Man of Science*, Ed. McMillan, eds., Basic Books, NY, 1966. A concise summary biography by the scholar who translated many Galilean works into English. Drake studied and reinterpreted Galileo's science with an emphasis on experiment.

Comment in your notebook on an experiment, controversy or experience from Galileo's life that intrigues you or stands out in some way. Do you notice other parts in his biography that seem related? What about the context of the times, or its science, figures in the example you selected? Does any of this connect with or illumine your training and studies?

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EC.050 Recreate Experiments from History: Inform the Future from the Past: Galileo
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