

MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

History at Home

MY PLEIN AIR STORY

This activity is appropriate for all ages. Younger students may need help reading the background information and directions.

Background Information

The term “en plein air” literally means “open air.” Plein air paintings are painted outdoors allowing the artist to capture the light and colors in a scene. This style of painting became possible in the late 1800s and serve as a record during a time when there were very few photographs.

After you have created your own plein air painting or drawing in the accompanying activity “*Make Your Own Plein Air Art*” use your masterpiece to inspire you to write a story.

Step 1 – Think About Your Painting

1. How do the colors you chose make you feel? Are they bright and happy or dark and spooky?
2. What location is in your artwork? Is it a place where something fun would happen? Is it a place where something mysterious would occur?
3. What kind of characters can you imagine living in your painting or drawing? Are they silly? Are they shy? Do they like the same things you like?

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Step 2 – Write Your Story

Use your answers to the questions above to help you write a short story inspired by your plein air art.

**Share your plein air story on social media with the hashtag
#MissionSanJuanCapistrano and we'll reshare it in a future post!**

This activity was created by Mission San Juan Capistrano.



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MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CA LANDMARK #200
Providing Inspiration, Education, Preservation and Celebration
through Service, Stewardship, Experience and Safety

