

Dee Valley Artists

Teachers' Guidance Notes

Learning Objectives

- To understand about different types of artwork and how to analyse paintings
- To investigate some of the famous artists that visited the Dee Valley and understand why they saw it as special
- To develop critical thinking and to be able to evaluate and reflect on your own work as well as that of others
- To develop creative thinking, investigation and evaluation skills

Resources

- [Art UK website](#)
- 18th and 19th century paintings of the Dee Valley
- Artwork Reflection Sheet

Activity Instructions

The paintings of the Dee Valley created during the Picturesque era are investigated to learn more about them and how people viewed the landscape. Learners will use examples of historic paintings to **reflect** on and analyse them. They will **respond** by using these as inspiration to create their own artwork. They will then **evaluate** their own work as well as that of other learners.



The Picturesque

In the 18th and 19th centuries many famous artists visited this area to paint its beautiful landscape. 'Picturesque' was a new movement which meant literally, a scene which would make a painting. It referred to an ideal type of landscape that had an artistic appeal, in that it was beautiful but also with some elements of wildness. Picturesque came to be used in many other ways too, having an influence on garden and landscape design.

Artists were inspired to treat landscape expressively by the Welsh-born painter Richard Wilson. In the generation after Wilson, touring Wales was a transformative experience for many painters, including J. M. W. Turner, who first came aged 17. Both painted in the Dee Valley, along with numerous others, and it has continued to draw artists ever since.

Starter Activity Ideas:

Look at different types of art on the Art UK website.

Discuss the different types of art that people create.

Discuss which artworks you like best and why.



Further Activity Ideas:

Invite other classes to view the work and encourage learners to explain their work to other people, their choices of art medium, what the artwork represents. Ask for feedback from other classes.

Find out more about the artists who created the historic paintings, the other types of art they produced and the time period they lived.

Investigate modern local Welsh artists.



Brief for Learners:

Reflect

Pick an example of historic artwork of the Dee Valley and answer questions to evaluate it using the Artwork Reflection Sheet.



Respond

Using inspiration from the historic paintings, create your own piece of artwork in response. Think about the question, "What is your perfect landscape?" The artwork could be in the form of a collage, drawing, painting or digital presentation on a computer. Draw inspiration from your Reflection Sheet and be expressive and creative. What do you want to express or represent? Is it a feeling? Is it the whole landscape or just part of the landscape? Why did you choose a particular art medium? What will you call your piece of art?

Evaluate

Use the Artwork Reflection Sheet to evaluate your own work as well as the work of others in the same way you did in the reflect activity. Create a class exhibition around the classroom and then each present your work to the class.



Richard Wilson



Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site

18th and 19th Century Paintings of the Dee Valley



R. Wilson

Dinas Brân from Llangollen, painted 1770-71

© Wikimedia Commons Google Art Project, Yale Centre for Public Art



R. Wilson

View near Wynnstay, painted 1770-71

© Wikimedia Commons Google Art Project, Yale Centre for Public Art

18th and 19th Century Paintings of the Dee Valley

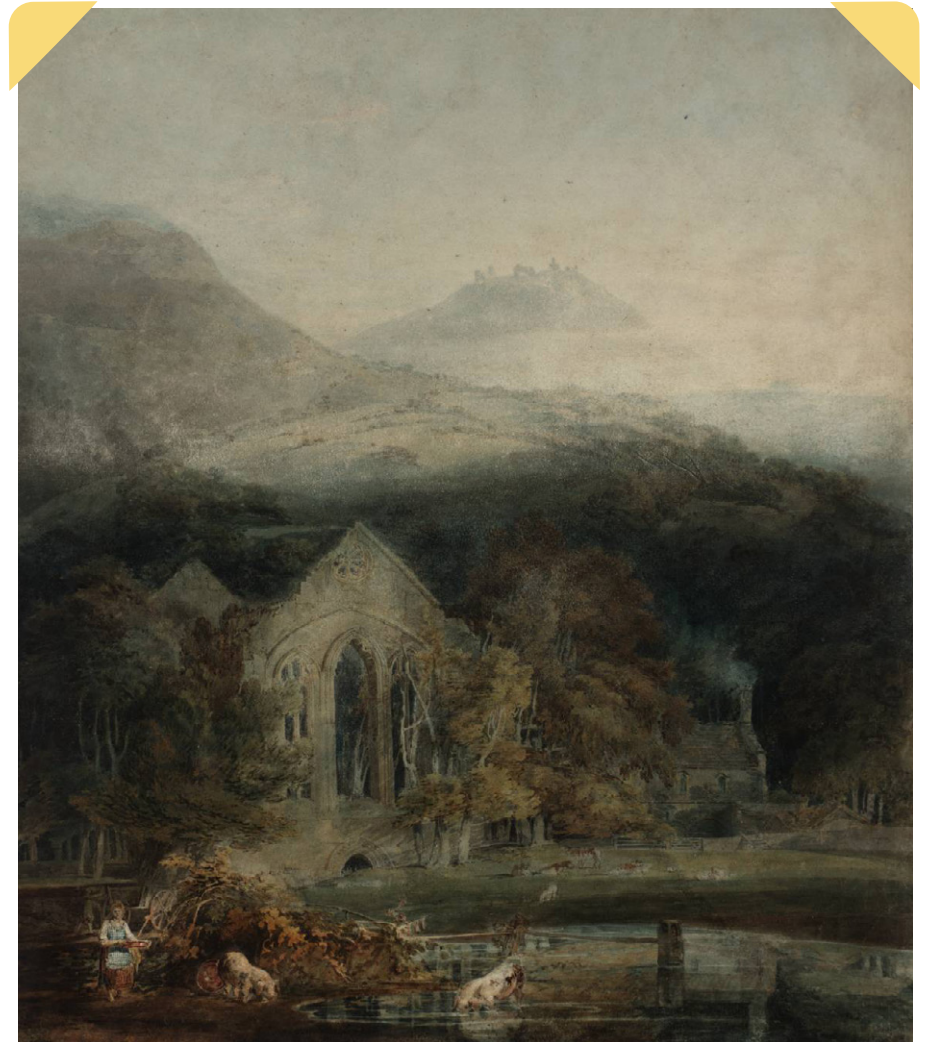
J. M. W. Turner



J. M. W. Turner

Dinas Brân, with the Dee in the foreground, 1798

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J. M. W. Turner

Valle Crucis Abbey, with Dinas Brân, 1794-5

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18th and 19th Century Paintings of the Dee Valley

John Ingleby



J. Ingleby

Chirk Church, Aqueduct and Castle, 1795

© Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru / National Library of Wales

Moses Griffiths



M. Griffiths

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct Under Construction, circa 1800

© Amgueddfa Cymru National Museum Wales

18th and 19th Century Paintings of the Dee Valley



G. Arnold

G. Arnold

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Cysyllte Bridge, 1826

© Courtesy of Institution of Civil Engineers

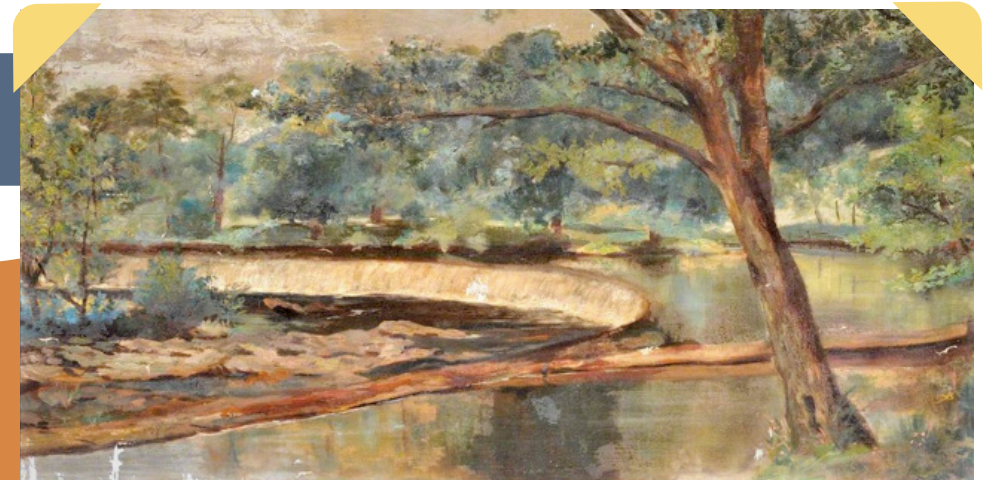


W. K Fuge

W. K Fuge

Horsehoe Falls, 1894

© NE Wales Archives (Hawarden)





Artwork Reflection Sheet

Investigating paintings can help us learn more about the artist and the world around them. Use this sheet to think about the painting you are looking at.



Name of the artist

Name of the painting

Describe this artwork in your own words.

What is the picture about?

How does it make you feel?

What would you ask the artist?

What do you think is good about it?

Is there anything you don't like about it?

Extra comments

