

Aerial Landscapes



Cheney Brothers (American, 1838-1955) *Dress Fabric, Aerial View of the Countryside*, 1923, Printed silk satin weave. Gift of Kate Fowler Merle-Smith, 1978. (1978.26.18)

After Wilbur and Orville Wright took their first airplane flight in 1903, artists began looking at their surroundings from a new height. This textile sample overlooks the countryside from the point of view of an airplane passing overhead. Patches of green, blue, and yellow show farms, houses and roads. Lines and patterns add detail to show different fields of crops and patches of shady trees. Imagine you were flying over your home, what new details would you see? Create a collage that represents your location from a new perspective.

Supplies:

- Construction paper or scrap paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Coloring Supplies

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Instructions:

Step 1 Cut your scrap paper into simple shapes and arrange the shapes next to each other or overlapping on your background paper.

Step 2 After experimenting with creating different layouts, glue your favorite arrangement onto your background paper.

Step 3 Use your coloring supplies to add designs onto some of your scrap paper shapes. Imagine your shapes becoming houses, roads, meadows, and rivers.

Step 4 For an optional extra, draw an airplane flying over your landscape. You can also add a compass rose or a map key to direct your airplane on its journey!

