

Sketching the Sky

The sky and weather have a big impact on what we see and experience in a landscape.

Art in a landscape may have an impact on how we perceive and interact with the sky.

This is easy to see and experience on a visit to Storm King Art Center, where sculptures are placed in the landscape. The artwork is in dialog with the environment and that dialog changes depending on the conditions of the day.

The artist Isamu Noguchi, who created Momo Taro, said this about Storm King: "I know of no other place like it...the sense of space, of horizons, the consciousness of the sky."

The awareness of the sky that you have at Storm King can be explored in other places too, even your own backyard or outside your window.



Step 1: Make a Sky Frame

Materials:

- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Tape or glue

Directions:

- Cut some pieces of cardboard into strips.
- Tape the strips together to make a frame.
- Your frame can be square or rectangular, or it can be any shape that you like.
- If you can't get outside for this project, you could use your window as a frame.
- The important thing is to make something strong enough that you can use multiple times.



Step 2: Make a Sky Journal

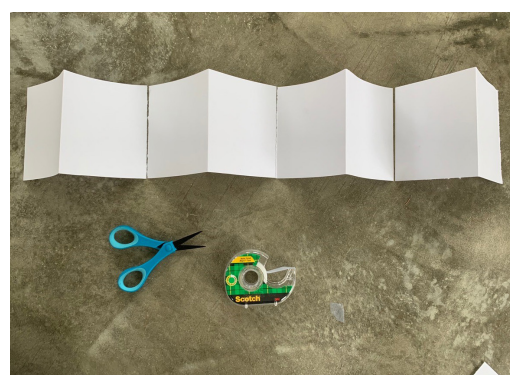
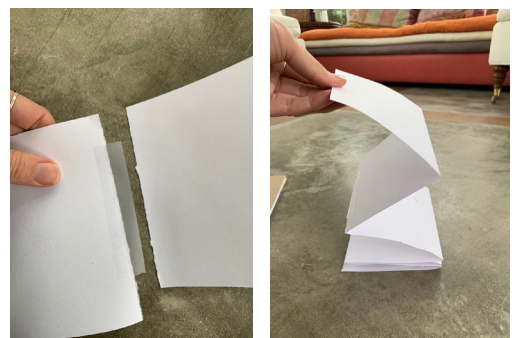
You can either use a premade journal or make your own. If you'd like to make one, gather these materials:

Materials:

- 5 sheets of paper
- One-sided tape
- Glue stick or double sided tape
- Cereal box or some other type of boxboard box
- Scissors

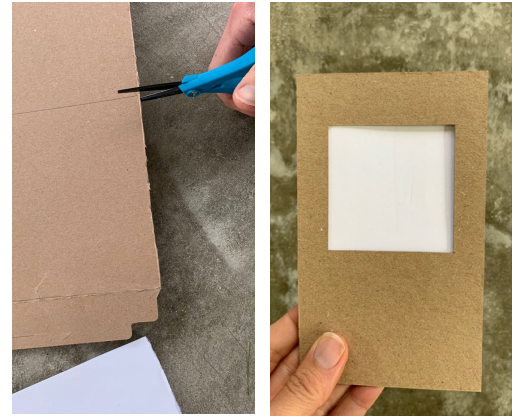
Directions:

- Fold each sheet of paper in half.
- Line up all your folded pieces of paper so that they look like small tents next to one another.
- Tape the edges of your folded sheets of paper together. Tape the seam where the pages connect on both the front and back for added durability. You can use masking tape, washi tape, or scotch tape.



Cover

- Cut along the seams of an empty cereal box so that you can unfold it and trace the folded paper onto the inside of the cereal box. Cut out the traced cereal box rectangle. Repeat so that you have two cereal box pieces for your covers.
- Tape the cereal box pieces to the front and back pieces of paper. You could use double-sided tape, a glue stick, or folded over pieces of tape.
- You can add detail to your journal's cover with drawings and words. Or, cut out openings and draw underneath them.



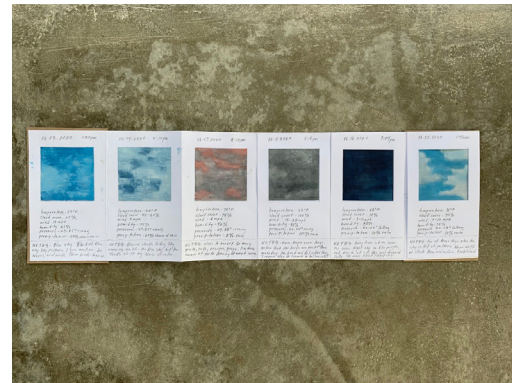
Step 3: Sketch the Sky

Materials:

- Sky journal & Sky Frame (steps 1 & 2)
- Pen or pencil
- Paints, markers, or colored pencils
- Weather app or thermometer (optional)

Directions:

- Find a comfortable place to sit outside or by a window.
- Use your frame to look up at the sky and draw, paint, or sketch what you see.
- Make some notes about what you notice.
- Record some data about the weather, either using a local weather app or a thermometer.
- Repeat this process at different time over several days, or the same time each day.
- Compare your notes and drawings.



Notes On The Sky:

Weather may impact how you feel. A cloudy day may make you sleepier than a sunny day.

Some people are sensitive to changes in pressure in the atmosphere and feel subtle shifts more than other people do.

Seasons may impact your feelings. When it is cold, you may want to be outside less. Or maybe more.

When the sky is gray, color subtleties and variations are more apparent than on a bright sunny day.

Wind, rain, snow, and sun all impact how you perceive the components of a landscape.

Paying attention to the sky and weather patterns may reveal things that you hadn't noticed before.

Drawing and noting what you see can lead to discoveries about the sky, your environment, and yourself.

You can explore this idea at home and then see how this study impacts the way that you perceive the sky and sculpts the next time that you visit Storm King Art Center.

