Colorful Landscape Drawing: Palette and Layering

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

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Worked example / complete source key

Plan a colorful landscape on a 20 cm by 25 cm sheet. Place the horizon at 8 cm from the top. Choose a palette of blue, green, yellow, and orange. Assign blue to background sky, green to midground hills, yellow to foreground field, and orange as an accent repeated in background clouds and foreground flowers. Describe the layer order and one contrast check.

Answer: Horizon at 8 cm leaves 17 cm below. Divide below into midground 8.5 cm and foreground 8.5 cm. Layer 1: blue sky and orange cloud accents above horizon. Layer 2: green midground hills overlapping the horizon by about 1 cm. Layer 3: yellow foreground field overlapping midground by about 2 cm, with orange flower accents. Contrast check: squint; if hills and field merge, darken one hill edge or lighten the field near the overlap. The accent orange appears twice, tying background and foreground.