

A Gust of Wind

This activity has been designed as a starting point for looking, talking and doing together. The **Look** and **Think** activities should take 5 -10 minutes.

The **Do** activities might take longer depending on the task and how creative you are feeling!



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The Gust of Wind,
Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841- 1919)
c. 1872
Oil on Canvas , 52 x 82 cm, no. 2403



Think

Does the landscape remind you of anywhere you have visited?

Imagine you are in that place. Take a deep breath in, how does the air smell and feel? Is it calm and still or bracing and fresh on our face?

Imagine walking over the hills. Where would you go? What's beyond the horizon?



Look

Look at the clouds, and the moving trees - follow the artists brush strokes with your finger.

What marks has he made to create movement? Are they quick, slow, broken or fluid?



Do

Follow this video on [how to make a pinwheel](#) or look at the instructions on the next page.

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More information

Renoir was part of a group of artists known as Impressionists. They were interested in recording an impression of a scene, capturing a moment and a sensation rather than how it looked. Renoir exhibited at the first Impressionist exhibition of 1874, but unfortunately his landscapes were not a commercial or critical success. By the 1860s his work had become increasingly dominated by the human figure and he rarely painted pure landscapes.

This painting is thought to represent a hill near Saint-Cloud, to the west of Paris, was probably painted around 1872. Day trips to the countryside were a new and popular activity for Parisians at this time, made possible by the development of the railways. It was now possible for many people to escape the summer heat, busy streets and city smells.

Renoir's aim here is not so much to create an accurate representation of the landscape, but more to convey the sensual pleasures of the outdoors and to capture the most unpaintable elements: air. Our eyes are drawn to the movement of the trees, bushes & the racing clouds in the sky, all achieved by the seemingly simple act of blurring the paint.



<p>You will need paper, a pencil with an eraser, a ruler, scissors, a long pin, a drawing pin & blu tac</p>	<p>Measure & cut a 15cm square</p>	<p>Make a hole in the middle using blu tac & the drawing pin</p>
<p>Measure 7cm from each corner, mark & cut down to the mark</p>	<p>Draw a line from each corner to mark the middle</p>	<p>Make a hole in every other corner with the pin</p>
<p>Feed the corners with holes onto your long pin & push it through the middle hole</p>	<p>Secure in place by carefully pushing the pin into the eraser of the pencil</p>	<p>Place somewhere to catch the wind & watch it move!</p>