



CHANNEL ISLANDS
MARITIME MUSEUM
OXNARD, CALIFORNIA

Historic

Coastal Expeditions and Art Appreciation
Pre Field Trip Activity

In this section of your tour, you will look at 4 maritime paintings and you will find out special techniques that artists use when they are designing their paintings.

At this station, the 4 paintings that you explore will tell you a story about the maritime history of the California coast from the 1800's to the turn of the Century (1900). You will see how these four paintings weave a story that reflects United States history close to our home.



You can do an internet search or a search through your history books to find out some history that will help you to understand the paintings that you see in this gallery walk.

1. Who was Richard Henry Dana? When did he sail to California and why?

2. What famous event took place in California in 1848 and why did so many people want to come here from all over the world? How did they get here? What were some of the routes, advantages and disadvantages of each?

3. What were the biggest cities in California in those days?

4. Around that time period many people came to California and stayed here. What natural resources do you think would have been most valuable then and why? How do you think would these resources get to California?

Important Art Terms To Know - Read the questions below and write in your answers.

Subject – This is what the painting is all about, like the main idea of a paragraph. At the museum, the subject is usually a boat or a ship because these are seascapes. If you were making a landscape or seascape drawing, what would be your subject?

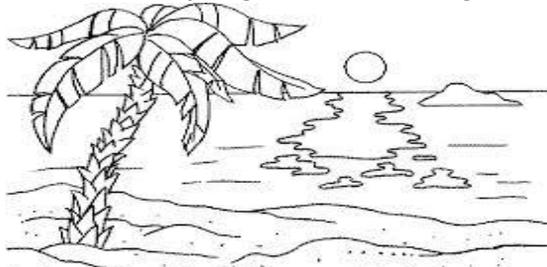
Foreground - middle-ground – background These words are parts of the painting that you will learn about at the museum. Think about which part of the painting each term refers to. Which part do you think helps us to see distance in a painting?

Lines – You will see that artists make different kinds of lines when they draw or paint – straight lines, curvy lines, diagonal lines. What things in nature would an artist use each type of line for?

Perspective – Artists play tricks with our eyes in a painting or drawing to help us feel like we are inside the painting and to help us feel that some things are far away. You will find out more when you get to the museum. Think about this: When something is far away from you, does it look bigger or smaller?

Shape – Artists use many different shapes when they draw or paint. Look around your environment. What shapes can you identify that would help you draw the items you see? What shapes do you think an artist would use a lot when drawing a seascape?

Horizon line – Have you ever heard this word? The horizon is the imaginary line that separates the water from the sky in a picture. Can you find the horizon line in this seascape picture? Trace the horizon line. Now color the **water a deep blue** and the **sky a light blue**. Don't forget to color in the sun!



Texture – This word means how an object feels. Even though we don't touch paintings, we know what the items in the painting would feel like by the way an artist uses lines to draw details, or brush strokes. Look at the bark of the palm tree in the drawing above. What do you think it would feel like? How would an artist depict this?