

Name _____ Date _____

The Metropolitan Museum of Art: http://www.metmuseum.org/explore/gw/el_gw.htm



George Washington Crossing the Delaware, painted by Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze

This portrait of Washington depicts his crossing of the Delaware River the day after Christmas, 1776, to surprise the English and Hessian troops and win the Battle of Trenton. The painting looks small, but the original painting is over ____ feet high and ____ feet long!

Directions: Click on each of the elements used in the portrait to learn more.

Perspective (the way an artist creates an illusion of depth on a flat surface):

Leutze used several **techniques** of perspective to show depth in this painting.

1. One way Leutze gave the painting the appearance of distance was by painting objects that are far away _____ than objects that are closer to the viewer.
2. Leutze used another technique to show depth when he " _____ " a sailor's left arm.
3. Leutze used **color** to help show depth in the painting by using brighter colors in the _____.
4. In the background there are no sharp contrasts or outlines, because the artist wanted the faraway boats to fade in the distance just as they would in reality. This is called " _____."

Light (used by artists to highlight important elements in a painting):

5. The greatest amount of light surrounds the group of men standing in the center of the boat. Why did Leutze do this? _____
6. Leutze distorted nature by using two sources of light to emphasize elements of his painting. What else did he do to the sky to add to the viewer's emotional reaction? _____

Color (used by the artist to highlight important elements of the painting):

7. Leutze used the color _____ to draw attention to his central theme in this painting.

Form (creating the appearance of 3-D figures):

8. Leutze creates the illusion of 3-dimensional figures by reflecting _____ off the bodies and painting _____ cast by the bodies.

Motion (used by artists to keep the viewer's attention):

9. Which elements of the painting seem to be moving? Write **yes** or **no** next to each one:
_____ the boat _____ the water _____ the soldiers _____ the flag _____ Washington
10. Why is that one element depicted as NOT moving? _____

Proportion (the use of size to relate different elements of the painting to each other)

11. In this painting, Leutze depicts the boat as much smaller than it really was. Explain why.
