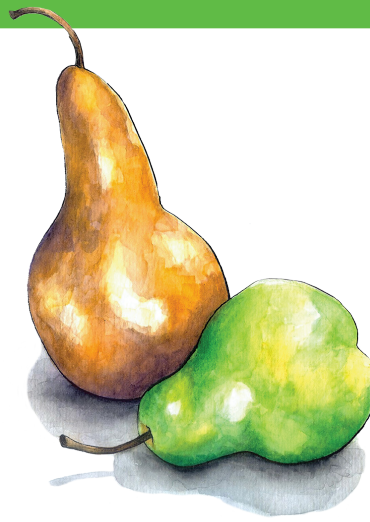


HARVEST of the MONTH in the CLASSROOM



PEARS

HISTORY

Pears are a member of the rose family and have been enjoyed by people for thousands of years. Pears originated in southeastern Europe and were a favorite food of the ancient Greeks and Romans. The ancient Greek author Homer described them as "gifts from the gods" likely due to their sweet, juicy flavor. The early Romans developed 50 varieties of pear and planted them across Europe. Pears are not native to the United States.

FUN FACTS

Pear trees start to produce fruit 4 years after planting. The US is 3rd in the world in pear production.

The Endicott pear tree in Danvers, MA is America's oldest fruit tree. It was planted between 1623 and 1649.

Pears in Massachusetts mature from September through November.

Every pear harvested is picked by hand.

FARMER BIO

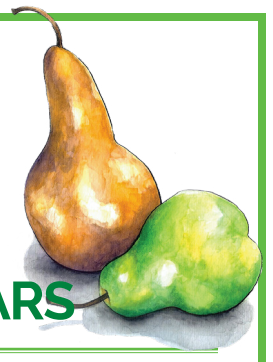


Brad Morse of Outlook Farm and Market farms 60 acres of fruits and vegetables in Westhampton, Massachusetts. He grows apples, peaches, pears, cherries, plums and blueberries and all types of mixed vegetables. Outlook Farm and Market sells their fruit and produce through their farm store, to a small supermarket in the area and to Gateway Regional High School. Brad's family has been selling fruit to Smith College since the 1960's! Brad's favorite variety of Pear for fresh eating is the Bartlett and his favorite pear to eat with is the Bosc. *Photo Credit: Outlook Farm.*

STILL LIFE WITH PEARS

Grades 3-5 • 45 minutes

PEARS



OBJECTIVES

Students will examine how some artists have depicted pears in still life paintings and create a still life of their own.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

What are different types of pears? How many details can you observe from looking at one pear? What are some different ways that artists have depicted pears in still life paintings?

MA STATE FRAMEWORK(s)

- 3rd-5th Grade Visual Arts Standards

MATERIALS

Examples of still lives with fruit and pears such as (many more can be found online!):

- Paul Cezanne: [Still Life with Apples and Pears or 3 Pears](#)
- Paul Gaughin: [Still Life with Apples, a Pear and a Ceramic Jug](#)
- Claude Monet: [Still Life with Pears and Grapes](#)
- Lily Martin Spencer: [Still Life with Watermelon, Pears, and Grapes](#)

Art supplies (i.e. paper, pencils, markers)

Pears and other items to lay out in a still life

PROCEDURE

Introduction: Ask students if they have ever seen a still life painting. What do they think the term "still life" means? Explain to students that a still life is a painting or drawing of an arrangement of objects. Still life paintings often include fruit and flowers and objects that have different texture or color, such as bowls, ceramics, glassware or fabric. Show students an assortment of still life paintings that include pears and other fruit. Discuss what students notice. Pass out some pears and ask students to think about how they might depict pears in their own still life artwork.

Activity: Have students create their own still life scenes or create one as a class that everyone will use for their own artwork. Remind students to highlight pears in the scene. Give students time to create their art.

Closing: Ask students to reflect on their process. What was easy or challenging? What would they do differently next time? Set up a gallery walk or bulletin board where students can share their artwork.

EXTENSIONS & VARIATIONS

Have an art show and pear tasting in the classroom and invite other students to take part. Continue to explore still lives with other crops from Harvest of the Month.