

ART · GRADES 4–5

One-Point Perspective

Make a flat picture look 3D

Two key terms

HORIZON LINE — the line where the sky meets the ground. Often eye-level. **VANISHING POINT** — a single point ON the horizon line where everything seems to disappear into the distance. In one-point perspective, EVERY straight line going AWAY from you points to that single vanishing point.

Six steps to draw a road

1. Draw a horizon line about halfway up the page. Mark a single dot on it — your vanishing point.
2. Draw the EDGES of the road — two diagonal lines from the bottom of the page UP to the vanishing point.
3. Add the road's center line — also pointing to the vanishing point.
4. Now add buildings on either side. The TOPS and BOTTOMS of the buildings should also point to the vanishing point.
5. Add details — trees, telephone poles, a car. They get SMALLER the closer they are to the vanishing point.
6. Color and shade. Things in the distance look paler and less detailed.

Try it with

A train track stretching into the distance. A hallway with doors on each side. A long table seen from the end. A row of fence posts. All use the same trick — everything points to one vanishing point.

