

***Mezozoic Tectonics***  
**Grade 3**

**ART PRESENTER PROGRAM**

**BACKGROUND READING**

**George H. Hutson, artist (1932- ) Berwick, IL**

George Hutson is a local artist who lives in Berwick, IL, about 10 miles southeast of Monmouth. Although he has no formal art training, he has been painting for the past 40 years. Mr. Hutson's interest in dinosaurs began when he started going to rock shows to find rocks for making jewelry. He became fascinated with dinosaur bones, teeth, claws, and eggs which he began collecting. Next he started to paint pictures of dinosaurs, using bright colors such as we will see in "Mezozoic Tectonics." Since no one really knows what color dinosaurs were, the artist has chosen the colors he likes to represent them. He has also added grass to the pictures although there was no grass during the period in which the dinosaurs lived.

Mr. Hutson had an exhibit of 110 of his dinosaur paintings at the Buchanan Center for the Arts in Monmouth in September, 2001. The Art Presenter Program purchased "Mezozoic Tectonics" from this exhibit.

(Please see the picture of Mr. Hutson and the photos of his exhibit at the BCA in the portfolio.)

**BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT FROM GEORGE H. HUTSON, JULY, 2004.**

I was born September 14, 1932, in Galesburg. I attended two one-room country schools: Brush Creek School for first grade and Newman School for second, third, and fourth grade. I returned to Brush Creek School for grades 5-8. Both schools were southwest of Knoxville. Newman School is now in Knoxville as a museum.

I attended Knoxville High School, graduating in 1950. Coming from a school with three people in my class to a school with fifty-four, was difficult for me.

I grew up during the 1930's and 40's. We never had much but living on a farm we always had plenty to eat and many patched clothes.

I wrote up my story of growing up through my Air Force years. I titled my story, "Me and the B-29". The story was published in the *Knoxville Journal* and ran as a continued story from September 28, 1995, to August 3, 1996.

When I was young on the farm, I never saw a dinosaur book to read. There were very few children's dinosaur books at that time, so it was not until I saw the pictures in *Life Magazine* that I began to be fascinated with them. Now I have many books about dinosaurs.

I married Peggy Miles in 1958 in Knoxville. We have four children: Beth (Paul) and their two kids; Janice (John) and their two kids; Nancy and Garry.

Dinosaurs must have been very interesting animals. We have been on earth but the blink of an eye compared to how long dinosaurs roamed the earth. And to think new dinosaurs show up in the fossil record almost every week still today. That is amazing to me.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you see?
2. What does the title mean? (The Mesozoic Period), when dinosaurs walked the earth, lasted from 248 to 65 million years ago. Tectonics refers to the theory that the Earth is covered by any plates, which continue to move about of "shift", leading to volcanic and earthquake activity.)
3. Notice the artist's use of color. Why do you think the artist picked these colors?
4. The picture is divided vertically into three sections with black lines to mark the three parts. Are there three parts horizontally, too? How has the artist made these three sections? (It may be that the artist wanted to suggest the 3 periods of the Mesozoic Era: the Triassic, the Jurassic, and the Cretaceous.)
5. The dinosaurs appear to be "broken". What has happened to them? When the tectonic plates shift, sometimes parts of the earth rise up and create mountains or sink and make valleys along fault lines. Can you see that the dinosaurs seem to be on different levels of the earth? How has the artist portrayed this effect?
6. Does the artist use difference in size of the dinosaurs to show whether things are close or far away?
7. Do you see movement in the picture? If so, where? How is it shown?
8. Look at the background. Are the flowers and grasses shown as real? Why do you think the artist used "broken" flowers?
9. Describe the "streams" in the picture.
10. Can you identify the kinds of dinosaurs? Do you think Mr. Hutson wants you to? Do they appear to be meat or plant eaters? How can you tell?
11. How do you think the dinosaurs feel about what is happening?
12. Raise your hand if you would like to have a painting like this in your room at home.

## ***Mesozoic Tectonics***

Third Grade

### EXTENDED ACTIVITIES

#### 1. Dinosaur project

Materials: different colors of construction paper, white art paper,  
crayons/colored  
pencils

Have students cut dinosaur shapes (they may draw them first) and mount them on their own background. If they choose, they may cut their dinosaurs into two or three pieces before arranging them (as Mr. Hutson did). They may also add their own plant life or other details to the background.

There are stencils in the red bag for students to trace around if they do not wish to draw their own dinosaurs.

#### 2. Animals before a storm

Materials: white art paper, crayons/colored pencils

Animals behave in unusual ways just before a storm and probably would before an earthquake or a volcanic eruption. Have students draw a picture portraying their pet or a farm animal(s) or favorite wild animal just prior to a storm or earthquake.