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BACKGROUND READING FOR ART PRESENTER

August Macke (Ma key) (1887-1914)
First Grade

August Macke was born and lived in various cities in Germany. He was known as a German Expressionist. He was known for his directness of color and became part of a group of artists called the "Blaue Reiter" (Blue Rider) group.

Macke was a carefree, positive man who enjoyed life to its fullest. He also used geometric forms in his paintings. Sometimes his blocks of color create a two-dimensional mosaic-like effect.

Macke was drafted into the army in World War I. Because he was so tall, he expected to be killed, and he was. He was killed in the war.

**You may want to use the books to show other paintings by this artist before showing the main painting. Be sure to point out the many colors in the paintings.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ART PRESENTER PROGRAM

Grade One

Landscape with Cows and Camel
August Macke

1. What are some of the first things you see in the painting?
2. What kinds of animals do you see?
3. What are they doing?
4. Describe how they look?
5. What is a "landscape"?
6. What are some of the things we see in landscapes around home?
7. What are some of the things in the landscape in the painting?
8. Are they the same as you see around here? Explain.
9. What colors do you see in the painting? Is one color most important of all, or are they all mixed up and used about the same?
10. What colors are brighter?
11. Which colors are darker?
12. Which ones do you see first?
13. Where are the triangles used in the painting? (animals, ground, hills, sky)
14. Why do you think the painter used these shapes in the painting?
15. Did you see them right away or after a while?
16. Do you think this painting tells a story?
17. Could you make up a story about this painting?

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EXTENDED ACTIVITIES TO ACCOMPANY

Landscape with Cows and Camel

August Macke

1. Abstract collage project

Materials: white paper, cardboard shapes (in baggy), markers/crayons/colored pencils

Each student gets white paper and a few cardboard shapes. Trace shapes--they may

have the shapes touching, random placement, overlapping. Then, color the shapes,

either with crayons, markers, or colored pencils. Cover as much of the paper as possible. If they want to, they can draw images over or among the shapes like the artist Macke did. Stress abstract nature of their work. Their creativity is easy to praise on this activity.

2. Variation on #1

Same materials as #1, but construction paper is also needed. You may wish to give them a brighter color of paper for their background. Black marker.

Construction paper shapes can be used, rather than tracing around shapes. These are glued on. Then, students should choose something that they would like to draw on top of their construction paper shapes. There are body and head pieces for a cow in a baggy that could be used since there is a cow in today's painting. There is also a sample of this project.

3. Cow picture

Materials: white paper, crayons

Detailed directions, along with a sample are in the manila folder.