

# The Village Market by Camille Pissarro

## Print Facts

- Medium:
- Date: 1882
- Size:
- Location:
- Period:
- Style: Impressionism
- Genre: Urban Life
- Pissarro tries to capture a mood through his painting.
- Pissarro attempts to take the viewer's eye through this busy market scene by using light. The woman in the center is the first thing the eye sees, but because her back is turned to the viewer it forces the eye to refocus on the seated woman she is looking at. Follow the light from the seated woman back to the buildings in the background.
- The seated man in front seems oblivious to the business of the scene. He serves a quiet contrast to the chaos of the rest of the painting.

## Artist Facts

- Pronounced: (pee-SAR-oh)
- Born in 1830 in St. Thomas, died November 12, 1903 in Paris
- Full name: Jacob-Abraham-Camille-Pissarro
- Pissarro was born on the island of St. Thomas. His father was a Portuguese sephardic Jew and his mother was from the Dominican Republic
- Pissarro was known for broad lines-often painted with a palette knife
- Known as the "Father of Impressionism" Pissarro was known for painting rural and urban French scenes, including landscapes and urban laborers
- At age 12 Pissarro went to boarding school in Paris
- Pissarro married Julie Valley, who had been their maid
- They had 8 children, 6 survived past childhood and all 6 became painters.
- Pissarro was forced to flee his home during the Franco-Prussian war. He returned in 1871 to find his house and many of his early paintings destroyed by Prussian soldiers.
- Pissarro suffered from an eye infection later in life that prohibited him from painting outdoors. He had to paint looking out the window from hotel rooms. He eventually died blind.
- Pissarro sold very few paintings during his lifetime, but now they sell for about \$2-4 million each.
- Pissarro quote: *Blessed are they who see beautiful things in humble places where other people see nothing.*

## Key Element of Design to Teach

- **Texture** is the quality of the surface, for example smooth, rough, shiny or dull. Texture may be defined as being real or implied. Real texture is the actual texture applied to the surface of the artwork that could be really experienced by the senses. For example, some artists employ the use of certain materials such as wood, stone, metal, glass, cloth, thick paint or other materials to give the surface a desired textural quality. Texture may also be implied. An implied texture is drawn or painted on the surface of an artwork to give it the appearance of having certain textural quality.

## Possible Questions and Suggestions to Teach Texture

- What patterns do you see repeated in this painting? Look at the scarves and the clothes. Take in different cloth items with unique textures for the children to feel.
- Look at the baskets the women are carrying. Do they look rough or smooth? Take in a basket for the children to feel.
- Look at the buildings in the background. Do they look rough or smooth? What do you think they are made of? Take in a brick, stone, shingle or other example of building material for the children to feel.
- Let the children feel the print. It is obviously smooth because it has been laminated, but Pissarro makes things appear to have texture by the way he paints them.

## Keywords

- Perspective, light, expression, pattern, color, focal point

## Other Possible Questions

- Cover everything but the man sitting up front. Where do you think this man is? Uncover the painting. Now where do you think he is?
- What are these people doing? What clues does the artist give? The women are carrying baskets.
- Are the people in the back bigger or smaller than the people in the front? Why is this?
- Does this scene seem busy or peaceful? Why?
- What do you think the man in the front is doing? Does he seem out of place?
- What colors do you see in this painting? Why do you think the artist paints the woman in the center in red dress?