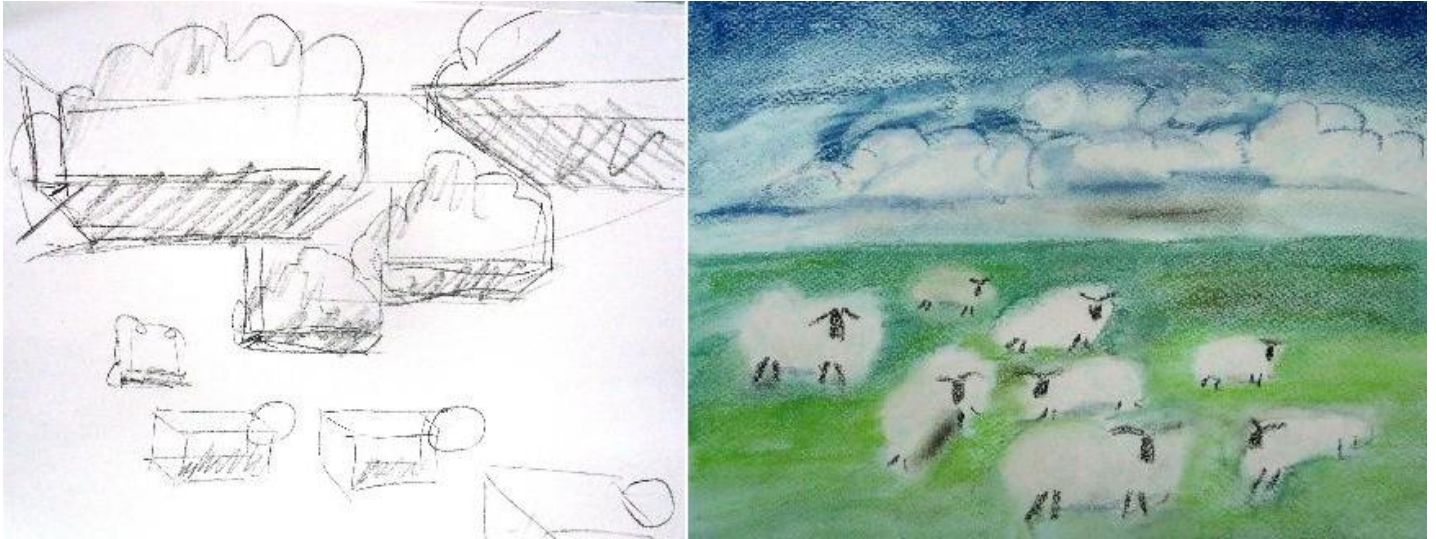# Soft Pastel: Perspective with Sheep & Clouds   by Kim Fjordbotten

Materials

Soft (chalk) pastels 12/set, Mungyo Student Pastels or Holbein Artist Pastels
Light blue Tiziano pastel paper or grey construction paper – cut into quarters (approx.11"x14" or 9"x12"), 1 per student
Tortillions or blending stomps
Vinyl eraser and kneaded eraser

Goal and Procedure

The purpose of this project is show distance and depth in a landscape drawing. For senior grades, share ideas for depicting light sources on soft objects.

Prep 1: Study the different cloud shapes. Which cloud type would be the best one to look at while daydreaming animal shapes?

Prep 2: Demonstrate the perspective of a rectangle as seen from above and below

Prep 3: Discuss the different ways to show perspective in a landscape.

- **Big versus small** - Bigger objects appear closer while smaller objects appear farther away.

- **Overlapping** - Closer objects overlap other objects, making them look behind and farther away.

- **Contrast** – Close objects have a higher contrast and more details. Objects farther away are softer and less distinct.

Placement is interesting in this project. In the sky, the big clouds are closer at the top and look farther away near the horizon. However, the sheep on the ground are the opposite. The sheep near the bottom are close. The ones near the horizon will appear farther away.

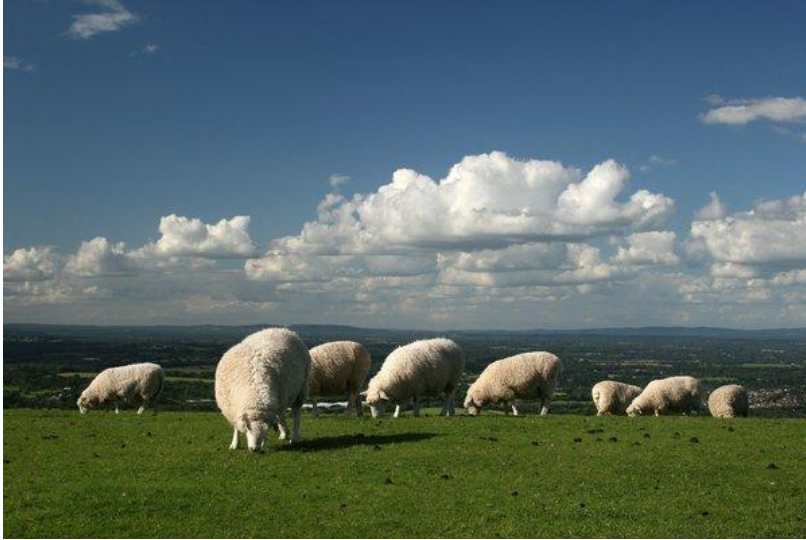# Soft Pastel: Perspective with Sheep & Clouds   by Kim Fjordbotten

Photo for reference only.
Students should exaggerate the
sizes of the clouds and sheep to
suit the project

1. First, use a white soft pastel quickly to sketch a horizon line. Take care not to put it exactly in the centre of the page. It is more interesting to have a horizon line slightly higher or lower than the centre.

2. Next, draw light oval shapes to represent the clouds and the sheep. Exaggerate this illusion by using size, overlapping, contrast and placement.

3. While sketching try grouping the ovals in a progression to create a pleasing composition that will lead the viewer's eye from the front sheep to the horizon into the sky and back out to the clouds. A gentle C-curve or S-curve is nice.

4. Now add colours and details. The smudgy soft pastels are perfect for depicting both the fluffy clouds and the soft sheep. Remember, clouds are forms affected by a light source, too.

5. Step away from your work often to see how the illusion looks from farther away.

6. Remember, a drawing is often done sooner than you think. Students and teachers should remind each other to stop before drawings get overworked.