

Look at Cityscapes



ACTIVITY SHEET

There are two street scenes from Allentown painted below. What kinds of things do you see in these cityscapes? List as many as you can.



On left: Walter Baum, *Allentown Street*, n.d., oil on masonite, 24" x 30", Collection of the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22

On right: Walter Baum, *Allentown Street*, c.1944, oil on canvas, photo courtesy James A. Michener Art Museum archives

Activities

For Artists

- Create an abstract cityscape in which sound plays an important role.
- Create a cityscape using photographic collage elements you find in recent newspapers and magazines.
- Create a work of art that uses a news headline about a city event that interests you. The event may range from uplifting, such as a new restaurant, museum, or sports stadium opening, or tragic, such as a drive by shooting or drug-related death.

For Writers

- Write an essay comparing the cities depicted in these two cityscapes.
- Write an essay comparing the cities depicted above with a scene from a city today.
- Write a free verse piece of poetry or prose using a city as your inspiration.
- Investigate a current event that involves a city. Write a short story about this event.

For Philosophers

- Look at the paintings of Giovanni Canaletto. How do his cityscape works depicting 16th century Venice differ from Baum's paintings? Search at The Metropolitan Museum of Art at www.metmuseum.org.
- Look at the cityscapes created by Edward Hopper. How do his cities compare with Walter Baum's, above? Search at the Whitney Museum of American Art at: www.whitney.org/www/collection/feat_hopper.jsp
- How has the development of technology, industry and capitalism affected the look and feel of today's cities?

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