

Cityscape 1, 1963 by A. Richard Diebenkorn [1922-1993]

1. Identify triangles, trapezoids, and rectangles in this cityscape.
2. Where might Diebenkorn have been when he saw the cityscape for this painting?
3. How do the two sides of the road in Diebenkorn's painting differ. Which side is man-made and which is undeveloped?
4. Ask students to describe the land in this scene.
5. How did Diebenkorn create a sense of depth in this scene?
6. Is this painting is more like life (realistic) or simplified (abstract).
7. How are the buildings and fields different from what you might actually see?
8. By painting this scene abstractly rather than realistically, what message has Diebenkorn shown in this painting?
9. Compare Diebenkorn's *Cityscape 1* to Edward Hopper's *House by the Railroad*. How are they similar?
10. How are they different?
11. Compare their mood.
12. What time of day it might be in Diebenkorn's painting. Why do they think this?
13. Ask what factors affect the color and lightness of an actual landscape.
14. Describe the weather and air quality of this scene/

Historical Connections: communism; suburbanization

Historical Figures: Senator Joseph McCarthy

Geography: urban geography

Literary Connections and Primary

Documents: *The Crucible* and *Death of a Salesman*, Arthur Miller (secondary)

Arts: Abstract Expressionism; bay area figurative movement