



Maurice Galbraith Cullen  
(Canadian, 1866-1934)

*Logging at Beaupré* | 1896

oil on canvas  
61.0 x 73.7 cm  
Gift of The Second Beaverbrook  
Foundation

# What can we learn from looking at Maurice Galbraith Cullen's *Logging at Beaupré ?*

## *Let's look*

Take your time. Look carefully. Where do your eyes go first? Then where? Take in as many details as you can.

## *Let's describe*

What is taking place? How would you describe the person in the painting? What are the person and the ox doing? How do the trees in the background relate to the person and the ox in the foreground? What can we say about the landscape? What time of year is it? What time of day is it? Support your answers with visual elements in the work.

## *Let's imagine*

Imagine yourself as the ox. What would you be thinking? Imagine yourself as the man. What would you be thinking and saying to the ox? If you could enter the scene, what would you do? Cullen's painting shows a man and ox hauling logs out of the woods in 1896. If you could re-create this painting today, what would it look like?

# Art-making inspired by Maurice Galbraith Cullen's *Logging at Beaupré*.

## *All Work and No Play*

**Curriculum Connections:** Elements of Art and Principles of Design;  
Explore images from a variety of historical and cultural contexts.

## *Materials Needed*

*Logging at Beaupré* (CD version or Smartboard)

Oil Pastels

Pencils

Paper (at least 16" X 20")

Paper towels



# Let's Get Started

## *Discuss!*

Canada has a long history of people working hard to achieve their goals. Early in Canada's history this work was done without the help of elaborate machines. This lesson gives the students an opportunity to think about Canada's past, and look at the history of its development.

In a pastel drawing, students will create a New Brunswick scene, and how they think it would have looked in Canada's past. Like Cullen's man and ox, think about the relationship between the machines and the people portrayed in the image.

## *Prepare!*

Take some time to talk about what types of animals and equipment would have been used early in Canada's history. Depending on the grade level this discussion will vary greatly. Allow students to have an open discussion about what they think Canada may have been like when the first settlers arrived. Depending on resources, having a few photographs or paintings (aside from Logging at Beupré) of early life in Canada can be helpful to students when it comes time for them to create their own image.

## *Create!*

**Note:** Have the example image of Maurice Galbraith Cullen's, *Logging at Beupré* on display for the class to refer to if needed.

1. This lesson will begin with a general conversation about animals and equipment used in Canada's past as a refresher of the previous conversation.

2. Students will be told that they are going to create their own drawing using oil pastels to representation what they think/interpret a day in the life of a Canadian would have been like earlier in Canada's history.
3. Students will be given some time to brainstorm and then will be instructed to begin their drawing. This part of the lesson will be done in pencil so that students can erase any mistakes that are made.
4. Once the pencil drawing has been completed, the drawing can be coloured in with the oil pastels. Tell students that oil pastels are similar to chalk or crayons, only softer and a bit messier!
5. After the image has been completed students will have an opportunity to discuss their image with the class. A possible cross-curricular lesson that can be tied in would be to have students create a short story about the scene that is being displayed in their image using what they know about Canada's history.

## *Tips and Tricks*

Oil pastels can be a bit messy at times and because of this baby wipes can be your best friend. Great for removing marks on tables, and they also work great on fingers!

# Artist Biography

Maurice Galbraith Cullen, a Canadian landscape painter, was born in Saint John's, Newfoundland, in 1866. Cullen moved to Montreal with his family as a young child, where he began training as a sculptor at the Conseil des arts et manufactures, under Louis-Philippe Hebert. In 1889, Cullen moved to Paris, France, where he studied painting at Ecole des Beaux-arts. In Paris, he became familiar with the French Impressionists, whose work was considered revolutionary at the time. He adopted their use of light and colour in his own paintings.

In 1895, Cullen returned to Montreal and introduced fellow Canadian artists William Brymner and James Morris to the Impressionist approach. Through their exhibitions and teachings, these three artists made Impressionist-style painting of Canadian scenery popular. In time, Cullen became famous for his Impressionist paintings of the cityscapes of Montreal, especially night scenes with glistening lights. He also became one of Canada's great painters of snow.

In 1918, Cullen was appointed by the Canadian War Memorials Fund to depict Canadian experiences in World War I. His dark paintings show that the artist struggled with the depressing subject matter. After the war, Cullen continued to paint in his Impressionist style.

Maurice Cullen was recognized and celebrated throughout his career. In 1895, he was the first Canadian to be elected member of Société nationale des Beaux-arts, Paris. In 1899, he was elected associate member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts. In 1911 and 1913, he was awarded the Jessie Dow Prize from the Art Association of Montreal. In 1912, he was elected first vice-president of the Arts Club, Montreal.

Maurice Cullen died in 1934 in Chambly, Québec.

## *Art Terms*

- Landscape:** A painting or drawing of the land or natural environment.
- Cityscape:** The urban equivalent of landscape, cityscape refers to the artistic representation of a city.
- Balance:** The visual impression of order and internal logic in a composition in which the characteristics of different elements (i.e. colour, direction, shape, scale, texture, tone, and apparent weight) are successfully integrated as a coherent image.
- Value:** The lightness or darkness of a tone, judged on a monochromatic range from black to white, through dark, mid- and light greys.
- Positive and negative space:** Positive space refers to the main form in a composition, while negative space refers to the area that surrounds or penetrates the main form and thus contributes to the overall image without itself having a positive form.
- Art movement**
- Impressionism:** A style of painting that started in France in the 1860s. Artists focused on everyday scenes and the effect of sunlight on objects.

## *Resources*

### **Maurice Cullen**

The Canadian Encyclopedia: Maurice Cullen

A detailed biography of Maurice Cullen with selected works.

[http://thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&TCE\\_Version=A&ArticleId=A0002066&MenuClosed=0](http://thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&TCE_Version=A&ArticleId=A0002066&MenuClosed=0)

### Cybermuse: Maurice Cullen

A gallery of Maurice Cullen's work, including a short biography.

[http://cybermuse.gallery.ca/cybermuse/search/artist\\_work\\_e.jsp?iartistid=1229](http://cybermuse.gallery.ca/cybermuse/search/artist_work_e.jsp?iartistid=1229)

### Landscapes

#### Narratives of Nationhood: Is This Landscape Your Landscape?

An excellent website where Canadian landscapes are discussed and several related lesson plans are offered.

[http://www.nationhood.ca/html\\_en/module\\_core.cfm?modNum=3&tab=intro](http://www.nationhood.ca/html_en/module_core.cfm?modNum=3&tab=intro)

#### Panoramas: The North American Landscape in Art

Developed by the Virtual Museum of Canada, this site gives you a chance to explore the influences of landforms on human occupancy, celebrate the diversity of North American cultures, learn how artistic decisions affect the portrayal of the land, and consider multiple perspectives on issues addressed by landscape artists. Each section contains images, suggested activities, media, and resources.

<http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Landscapes/edu-e.html>

### Impressionism

Download or browse eight teacher lessons (grades 1-8) introducing the major themes of Impressionism, or take a guided tour through turn of the century France and explore the interesting concepts that defined the Impressionist art movement.

<http://www.impressionism.org/>

#### Incredible Art Department: Impressionism/ Post-Impressionism

A variety of links to sites about Impressionism and Post-Impressionism and the major artists of the period, including Monet and Van Gough. Links to related lesson plans are also provided.

<http://www.princetonol.com/groups/iad/lessons/middle/impress.htm>