

SP 713 Jan. 8 Activities

Frames, Viewing, Measure and Relations

Consider the reducing size of something viewed, as it is put further back from the picture frame. Consider the role of the viewer position. Explore size and relation with sighting lines, the frame, and the object.

You might work on this in one particular context, and then consider how that might adapt to some other context.

What analogy or construction of proportion do you observe going on?

Galileo's Calculator

Study Galileo's manual on the geometrical compass and try to follow some of its constructions. Follow the geometry of the tool with your thinking about what it does. Take a measurement question that has come up for you in doing the frames and viewing activity, and adapt it to the instrument. Use the compass as an extension of what you are noticing and thinking about sighting lines and geometry.

Ring of Truth scene showing the paintings at Treviso

Activity with lenses, eyeglasses, mirrors

Explore with lenses singly and in combination.

What effects do you notice? What variations occur?

What amplifies, reduces, complicates?

Consider what you observe with lenses and mirrors in relation to what you were finding out with the frame about relations and sizes of things.

Widen the means and range of what you try.

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

EC.050 Recreate Experiments from History: Inform the Future from the Past: Galileo
January IAP 2010

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.