

516 LEARN



AFTON LOVE

SHADOWS & TIME



1 LOOK

To see this artwork enlarged, go to

www.516arts.org/assets/documents/Chaco_Range.jpg

1. Take a few seconds to look closely at the artwork. Look at the darker parts and the lighter ones.
2. Why do you think the artist created areas different colors?
3. Think about a sunny day. Have you seen shadows like in the drawing in the things around you (it could be your house or your favorite toy)?

2 LEARN MORE

Afton Love, the artist that created this drawing, is interested in how time passes on things that we think don't change, like rocks and mountains.

But rocks too change forms with time, but at a slower pace than for animals or plants. Rocks can be broken down by wind, water, ice, and human activities. And new rocks are created in volcanoes and earthquakes.

In the drawing, the artist uses graphite (the material inside your pencil) to represent on the paper what she was seeing in the landscape. She filled some parts of the paper with a lot of marks so that it looks dark, and left other parts very light. That is what is called **contrast**.

In general, contrast is the arrangement of opposite elements: light vs dark, rough vs smooth, large vs small. In this case the artist uses contrast to represent the shadows in a sunny day in the desert of New Mexico.

3_CREATE

Now it is your turn to observe how things change over time. For this activity you will need:

- paper
- black or gray pencils, crayons, pens
- a rock (you can pick one outside, ask an adult first!)

Sit down with all the materials in front of you. First look at the rock. Does it remind you of any shape you know? It is more a triangle or a circle?

Put the rock down and look at the shadow it creates on the surface around it. Is it strong shadow (darker) or is it a soft one (lighter, more similar to the side with the light). Do you think it will look differently if there were more or less clouds today?

Draw the shape of the rock on the paper multiple times and add the shadows as you see it. You can use a lighter or darker gray, or just your pencil. Experiment with the shadows. What happen if you add more? And what if you do it very lightly?

OPTIONAL:

As in Afton Love works, things change all the time even if we don't always notice it. You can try to leave the rock in the same place and come back few hour later.

Now observe again: are the shadows the same as before? What it did change? Are the lighter or darker now? Are they in a different part of the rock? Are they longer or shorter on the surface around?

If you want to know more about drawing rocks, boulders, and mountains, check this great web page:

johnmuirlaws.com/how-to-draw-rocks/