

# The Art of Jean Paul Lemieux and the Invention of Crack Free Railway Tracks

by Monique Martin

[www.moniqueart.com](http://www.moniqueart.com)



All images by Grade 1 and 2 students

## Objectives

To use geometric shapes to draw a train

To learn about the art of Jean Paul Lemieux, specifically "Saskatchewan" from his "My Canada" series.

To use compositional techniques that allow the drawn train to look like it has somewhere to go.

Draw a picture on paper cut to a panoramic format

Use detail to create a train that is interesting for the viewer



## Resources

The Canadian Inventions Book - Janis Nostbakken and Jack Humphrey

Canada Invents - Susan Hughes

Inventors and Inventions - Lorraine Hopping Egan

Canadian Women Invent - Annie Wood

Jean Paul Lemieux - His Canada (Canadian Museum of Civilization)

How to Draw Planes, Trains and Boats by Barbara Soloff Levy, or any other book on drawing trains



### Materials

Crayons

Water colour paint

Paper cut to the panoramic format

Brushes

Images of Trains







Procedure



This lesson is easy to teach.

Talk about the invention of crack free train tracks and the art of Jean Paul Lemieux.

**Jean Paul Lemieux**, (18 November 1904 - 7 December 1990) is one of the foremost painters of twentieth century Québec. He was born in Québec City, where he also died (Colin S. Macdonald claims he died in Montréal). He was raised in Québec City until 1916, when his family moved to Berkeley, California. In 1917, the family returned to Québec and settled in Montréal.

From 1926 to 1934, Jean Paul Lemieux studied under Edwin Holgate and others at the École des Beaux-Arts de Montréal (Montréal School of Fine Arts). In 1929, he travels to Europe with his mother. In Paris, he studied advertising and art, frequents other artists. Lemieux took teaching positions from 1934, first at the École des Beaux-Arts de Montréal, then in 1935 at the École du meuble (Furniture School). In 1937, he moved to Québec City

and taught at the École des Beaux-Arts de Québec until his retirement in 1965. His connections at that period include other major artists associated with these schools, such as Alfred Pellan and Paul-Émile Borduas.

Jean Paul Lemieux received several awards for his works, including the Louis-Phillipe Hébert prize in 1971 and the Molson Prize for the Canada Council for the Arts in 1974. In 1968, he became a Companion of the Order of Canada. He was also a member of the Royal Canadian Academy. In 1997 he was posthumously made a Grand Officer of the National Order of Quebec.

Excellent information about his work can be accessed at [http://national.gallery.ca/english/default\\_1980.htm](http://national.gallery.ca/english/default_1980.htm)

## Cracks in the Tracks

By Miranda Hughes Grade 8

A crack on a railway track could be disastrous for train passengers and driver. Unfortunately, cracks in the early 1900's were very common. The belief was that the cracks formed because of the high temperatures of the rail-making process. The small cracks grew larger and more dangerous when the weight of the train wheels pounded on the steel railway again and again. But a metallurgist by the name of Cameron Mackie working in Sydney, Nova Scotia, discovered that the cracks actually formed in the cooling of the railway track making process. He found out how to slow down the cooling process of the rails. In 1931 the first shatter-free railway tracks were made. The "Mackie Process" was soon used around the world to produce most railways.

Give the children images of trains from magazines, Internet or from How to draw books.