



"Estes Park"

The painting, "Estes Park," by Albert Bierstadt (1877) shows the magnificence of the Rocky Mountains. The painting is very large, 62 inches by 98 inches, and now hangs in the Denver Public Library. The Earl of Dunraven commissioned the painting to publicize land on which he planned to build a hotel and resort. This painting shows the beauty of the mountainous landscape, including forests and snow-covered mountains. If you look carefully, you can see the U-shaped valleys, which were created by glaciers thousands of years ago. You can also see that the tops of the mountains are jagged; glaciers eroding the mountains also created them. Albert Bierstadt was an American painter who was born in Germany in 1830 and died in 1902. He traveled through the West and painted many canvases of landscapes, frequently emphasizing their grandeur. When Bierstadt painted this canvas, the human impact in the area was minimal. Today, Estes Park is a resort town serving as a gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park. It contains tourist shops, hotels, and restaurants. Despite the commercialism of the town of Estes Park, this national park has preserved for public use beautiful lakes, forests, hiking paths, and magnificent views of these impressive mountains. What is especially remarkable is that Rocky Mountain National Park is within an hour's drive of Denver, Colorado, and yet the park retains elements of relatively undisturbed nature. Millions of Americans and people from around the world visit and enjoy the wonders of Rocky Mountain National Park each year.

ART: Question 1

What kind of landscape is shown in this painting?

Question 2

What evidence of glacial action is shown in the painting?

Question 3

How do you feel when you look at this painting?

Question 4

Why was Rocky Mountain National Park created? What are some of its attractions?

Question 5

What are the advantages and disadvantages of a national park being located near a large city?