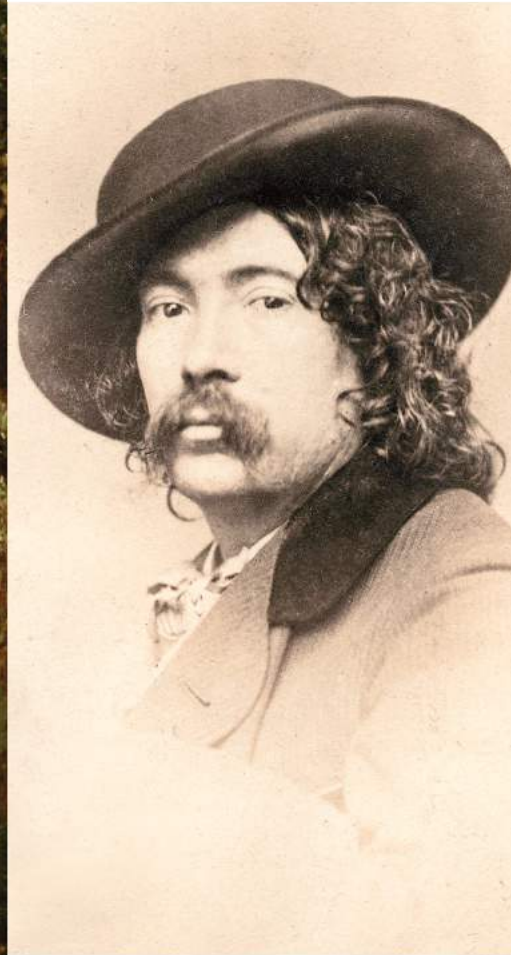




Object: **The Adirondacks**, 1861, James M. Hart (1828-1901), oil on canvas
Albany Institute of History & Art, gift by exchange, Governor and Mrs. W. Averell Harriman, 1987.32



Image: **James M. Hart (1828-1901)**,
George G. Rockwood, salt print,
Albany Institute of History & Art,
Lloyd Family Papers, HO 81-02



The Capital Region in 50 Objects

Hudson River School

Recognized today as America’s first indigenous art movement, the Hudson River School identifies a group of landscape painters who mainly lived and worked in New York’s Hudson River Valley between the years 1825 and 1875. Although not an actual school, the artists associated with the movement frequently knew one another, went on sketching trips together, and exhibited their paintings side by side at exhibitions and galleries. The name Hudson River School was not used by the artists themselves. The name came into general use in the 1870s, at a time when their style was losing popularity.

Emphasis on the American landscape as a source of national pride and identity gave prominence to landscape painting during the nineteenth century. Indeed, the Hudson River School brought awareness not only to the art of landscape painting but also to America’s wilderness regions. Writing for the Knickerbocker magazine in 1839, art critic Thomas R. Hofland observed that “the American school of landscape is decidedly and peculiarly original; fresh, bold, brilliant, and grand.” What he and others saw in the Hudson River School was something truly American.

Although much of the focus for the Hudson River School revolves around Thomas Cole and the Hudson Valley, Albany was home to the Hart family, which included three prominent Hudson River School painters: James, his older brother William, and their sister Julie. The Harts settled in Albany in 1831 after emigrating from Scotland. By the 1840s, James began exhibiting landscapes that captured the beauty of the Hudson Valley and other destinations throughout New York and the Northeast.

Vocabulary

Artist – a person who creates art: a person who is skilled at drawing, painting, etc.

Emigration – to leave a country or region to live elsewhere

Exhibition – an event at which objects (such as works of art) are put out in a public space for people to look at; a public show of something

Indigenous – produced, living, or existing naturally in a particular region or environment

Landscape – a picture that shows a natural scene of land or the countryside

Movement – a series of organized activities working toward an objective

Hudson River School

Name _____ Date _____

Directions

Use the depiction of the object, image, and corresponding text to answer the following questions.

1. Name of the object: _____

2. Identify two important geographic features of the landscape depicted in the painting:

a. _____

b. _____

3. What is the name of the group of landscape painters who mainly lived and worked in New York’s Hudson River Valley between the years 1825 and 1875?

4. What family from Scotland included three prominent Hudson River School artists?

5. Which family member painted “The Adirondacks”?

6. Why did American artists focus on landscapes in the nineteenth century?

7. What did art critic Thomas R. Hofland claim was special about the Hudson River School artists and their work?

8. Name two ways by which James Hart could have traveled to the Adirondacks in 1861:

a. _____ b. _____

9. Using the information presented, and your understanding of social studies, what significant historical event began in the same year James Hart completed “The Adirondacks”?
