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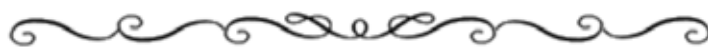


THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS

LANDER'S PEAK

by Albert Bierstadt

1830-1902



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Let's go to the [Metropolitan Art Museum](#) to see "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak".
You will be able to see close-ups

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Albert Bierstadt (BEER stat) was born in Prussia, which was a

Albert Bierstadt (BEER stat) was born in Prussia, which was a large German state. (This land today is in Germany, Poland, and Russia.) He came to America with his parents when he was two years old.



As he grew up, he taught himself to paint. Then he decided to go to Dusseldorf, Germany to study with a group of artists. They toured Europe. Bierstadt first started painting landscapes in Europe, then he came to America.

He painted the magnificent scenes in Yosemite. When people saw the paintings, they wanted to go there and see it for themselves. As a result, so many people went to Yosemite, that the land was no longer unspoiled, and Bierstadt went elsewhere to paint.

In 1859 the artist made a trip to the Colorado and Wyoming territories with Frederick Lander, who was

in charge of a government survey expedition. He was inspired to paint this beautiful scene of the Rocky Mountains. Indians are encamped in the valley. This is a large painting; six feet high and ten feet long.

After Colonel Lander died in the Civil War, Bierstadt named the highest peak in the painting Lander's Peak. The painting sold for \$25,000 in 1865. That was a lot of money in those days. Later, it is said, he bought it back and either gave it to his brother or sold it to him.

In 1867 he married, and he and his new bride went to London. There he met with Queen Victoria. His wife, Rosalie, needed to live in a warm climate for health reasons. She lived in Nassau, and her husband began to paint the tropics of Nassau as a result of his stays there.

He died suddenly in 1902 and people seemed to forget his work until the 1960's. People became more

interested in preserving our national lands, and his paintings began to be shown again.



Study Art

Albert Bierstadt (1830-1902)

Albert Bierstadt was an American artist best known for huge paintings of the American West. Born in Germany, Bierstadt immigrated to the United States with his family at age two.



As a young man, he returned to Germany to study art, but soon fell in love with the Rocky Mountains and the landscapes of the American West. He tried to evoke the grandeur and beauty of the mountains and valleys of the West. This painting, *Garden of the Rockies*, shows his monumental style. And sometimes he even rearranged mountains on his canvas to create a more impressive landscape!

These enormous paintings—some are over ten feet wide—became very popular in the 1860s and 1870s. One painting, "The Discovery of the Hudson," was displayed in the United States Capitol.

[Back to previous page](#)

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