

Powerful Waters: Watercolor



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AQUARIUM
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Reflect on how water has an impact on all life and on what makes water and aquatic ecosystems powerful and important and create a watercolor painting in response.

Duration

Preparation: 10 minutes

Activity: 2 to 3 days to allow for drying times

Supplies

- Watercolor paper or other thick paper
- Watercolor paint (pans, tubes, pencils)
- Brushes
- Pencil
- Sharpie or another waterproof marker
- Eraser
- For resist and lifting techniques: salt, rubber cement, paper towels, oil pastels
- Scissors

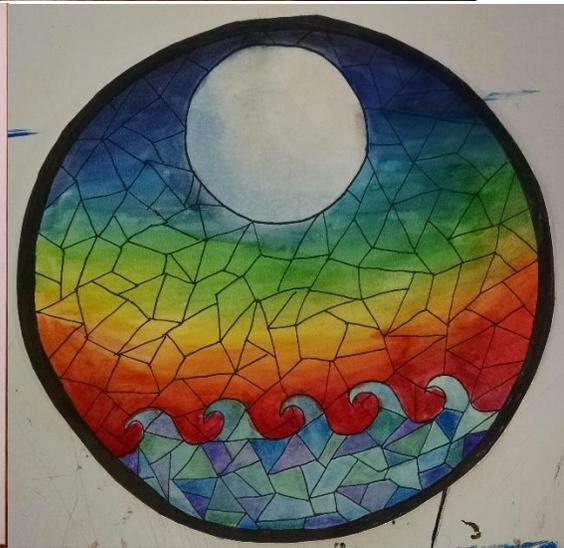
Background

All through human history, water has played an important role. Humans have long congregated around sources of water for its supply of food, as a mode of transportation, and physical power. Activities were planned around the tides, mills were built to benefit off the forces water generates, and boats were crafted to traverse the most treacherous of waves. Water also held a spiritual power, with the Greeks and Romans attributing gods to lord over the oceans, moon goddesses in control of the tides, and water spirits to help weary travelers. Today, water still holds a power over us and as we realize how much harm we have caused to these precious aquatic ecosystems, we come to recognize the power held within the water's depths with the various animals and plants that call it home. For this activity, we will combine our ideas of powerful waters with the beauty or stained-glass windows to honor one of earth's most vital resources.

Instructions

1. Brainstorm ideas related to water. Think about the different environments created by water, the different animals and plants, and what is impacted or effected by water. What does it mean for water to have power?
2. Sketch rough drafts of your ideas, keeping in mind stained glass patterns.
3. Draw your selected draft onto larger watercolor paper. Use sharpie to outline the pencil.
4. Once the marker is dry, erase all pencil lines to create a clean base for the paints.

5. Use the attached watercolor worksheet to practice different effects and techniques.
6. Paint your design using watercolor techniques to mirror stained glass texture. Salt can be used for creating a mottled effect, rubber cement can be used to preserve white areas of the paper, paper towels can be used to lift the paint away to lighten, and oil pastels can be used to create a resist.
7. Trim your paper for your design as needed to remove unpainted white paper.



Examples credited to First Colonial High School Drawing, Painting, Print Making students, 2015.

Watercolor

Watercolor is a painting method.

Watercolor is a medium or a resulting artwork.

Watercolor paints are made of pigments suspended in a water-soluble vehicle.

Water color paper is made up of a percentage of rag.

Techniques:

Wash – very watered-down watercolor.

Dry brush – very little water with paint, using a completely dry brush

Wet-on-wet- wet the paper with just water, then use a wet brush & paint to work on top of the wet area

Bleeding – Two wet colors, painted side by side, so they touch and “merge” into each other

Resist using oil pastel or crayon- draw/write with oil pastel, then paint on top.

Resist using Rubber Cement- paint on Rubber Cement (dries quickly), then paint on top.

Salt – using a wash, wet on wet, or “normal” watercolor technique, paint with the watercolor and then sprinkle salt on top.

“Lifting” (with Paper towel)- using a wash, wet on wet, or “normal” technique, “remove” the paint by crinkling up paper towel and “blotting” or “dabbing”

PRACTICE ASSIGNMENT:

Complete the above techniques on a strip of watercolor paper. Once dry, cut out each technique, and paste onto the back under the corresponding label. Add notes and tips that will help you in the future.

1. Wash

2. Dry Brush

3. Wet-on-wet

4. Bleeding

5. Oil Pastel/Crayon Resist

6. Rubber Cement Resist

7. Salt

8. Lifting