

A Grade 3-5 ARTful Hour

“Working with Watercolour”

November 2011 with Heidi Stoddart



- ✓ TEACHER TIP: It's helpful to demonstrate how to set up a workspace. Position the paint and water according to 'handed-ness' for easy access (right-handed = have palette to the right of the paper; left-handed have palette to the left of the paper), and not near the edge of the table/workspace.

1. Watercolour Techniques



- Apply resist (wax crayon)
- Wet the paper
- Apply wash
- Know when to stop
(don't overwork paint)

- Wet the paper
- Apply wash
- Sprinkle grains of salt
- Know when to stop
(don't brush/move salt)

- Wet the paper
- Apply wash
- 'tap' plastic wrap
- Know when to stop
(let paint dry before removing plastic wrap)

- Wet the paper
- Apply first colour
- Apply second colour
- Know when to stop
(overworking will result in mixing)

2. Painting with Watercolour... Leaf Design

Materials:

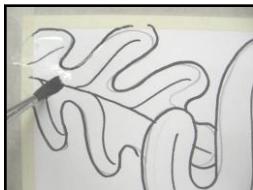
- newsprint to practice drawing leaf shapes
- watercolour paper
- Sharpie waterproof marker (fine)
- Prang watercolour sets & brushes
- water containers
- Optional: masking tape and vinyl mat or cardboard

- ✓ TEACHER TIP: Using masking or painter's tape to adhere watercolour paper to a flat 'support', such as a vinyl placemat (re-usable) or cardboard (eg. from a pizza box lid), mimics 'stretching' the paper, reducing the 'warp' as watery paint is applied, AND providing a mat/frame effect once the paint is dry and the masking tape is carefully removed. (Taping paper directly to students' desks also works, but is not portable for setting painting aside when going on to the next activity.)



PRACTICE...

1. Demo wet-on-wet technique (wet paper, apply first colour of watery paint, apply second colour of watery paint, know when to stop so colours aren't stirred/mixed together, but 'run' or 'bleed' together)



Wet the paper..... Apply first colour, then apply second colour so they touch/overlap..... Know when to stop!

2. Use watercolour paper 'scrap' to practice wet-on-wet using 2 colours

OR...

Looking at leaves (real samples or photos) for visual reference, draw the CONTOUR or outline (outer shape) of the leaf, then trace over the outline using a black Sharpie (waterproof). Experiment with wet-on-wet using 2 colours to fill in the leaf shape



- ✓ TEACHER TIP: *Mixing 3 or more colours together usually results in a 'brownish' colour, so specify that students should control their colour choices, allowing only 2 colours to come in contact for this wet-on-wet practice.*

CREATE...

PROCESS

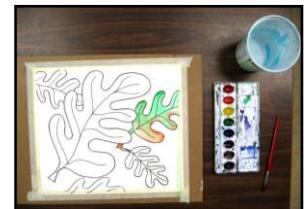
3. Design... Practice drawing several leaves on newsprint. Choose one (unity) favourite shape, and use that to fill the page, creating a design including:

- Variety of sizes
- Overlap
- Off the page
- Trace with waterproof marker

OR...

Design... Practice drawing several leaves on newsprint

- Choose your favourite leaf shape
- Redraw it on watercolour paper, making it big to fill the space
- Trace with waterproof marker



4. Use wet-on-wet to paint the leaves/leaf (2-3 colours each)

5. When leaves are dry, paint the background choosing 2 colours with wet-on-wet.

- ✓ TEACHER TIP: *Check to ensure that watercolour is dry using the sensitive skin on the back of your hand*

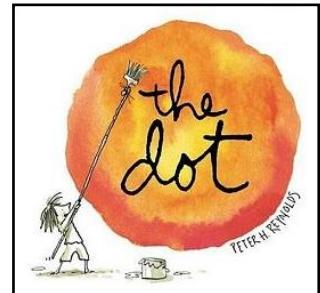
Other Possibilities...



3. The Dot... Experimenting with Circles

Materials:

- “The Dot” picture book by Peter H. Reynolds (also available on Tumblebooks)
- watercolour paper
- Prang watercolour sets
- watercolour brushes
- water containers
- Optional: Sharpie markers, salt, wax crayons/pastels (resist), plastic wrap
- Optional: masking tape and vinyl mat or cardboard
- Optional: Circle templates (eg. Plastic lids in variety of sizes...)



CREATE...

Once students have been introduced to watercolour and various watercolour techniques, all time and materials for free, independent exploration and application of skills using just one design criteria... “dots”.

Ideas relating to ‘circles’ and ‘dots’...



Farbstudie Quadrate by Wassily Kandinsky; 1913
“Everything starts with a dot.” –Kandinsky



-Pastel Resist inspired by Kandinsky; Mrs. McComb's SES Gr. 3's



-Mme Gionet's Gr. 5's @ QES