

DIY Watercolors

**Goal/Benchmark:**

VA.5.S.1.2 - Use media, technology, and other resources to inspire personal art-making decisions.

VA.5.S.3.3 - Use tools, media, techniques, and processes in a safe and responsible manner.

Connections:

Reading: Math: Science: Social Studies: Music:

Materials/Resources:

Baking soda (3 tbsp per batch); cornstarch (3 tbsp per batch); white vinegar (3 tbsp per batch); syrup (2 tsp per batch); a bowl; plastic palettes; food coloring; toothpicks or thin straws; drawing paper; pencils; paint brushes; spoons

Vocabulary/Definitions:

Watercolor – a pigment that, when mixed with water as a medium, creates a type of paint. Watercolor paint is transparent, and the white of the ground (paper) underneath provides light that shines through the painting

Pigment – the substance or powder that makes up the color of a paint. Pigments are either organic (derived from plant or animal sources, e.g. ivory black, indigo) or inorganic (derived from salts or metallic oxides e.g. ocher, cobalt blue)

Variety – a principle of art that includes different forms or types, notable use of contrast, emphasis, difference in size and color

Shape – an element of art that pertains to the use of areas in two-dimensional space that can be defined by edges, setting one flat specific space apart from another. Shapes can be geometric (e.g.: square, circle, hexagon, etc.) or organic (such as the shape of a puddle, blob, leaf, boomerang, etc.)

Line – an element of art that pertains to the use of various marks, outlines and implied lines in artwork and design, most often used to define shape in two-dimensional work

Literacy Strategy:

N/A

Objectives:

The student will be introduced to creating and painting with watercolor paint.

The student will practice using found objects to create watercolor paint and paint with those watercolor paint.

The student will create art reflecting knowledge of creating and utilizing one's own paint.

Higher Order Thinking:

Create an aquarium of tropical fish by combining a variety of organic shapes and lines in your drawing, create your own watercolor paint, and paint the background with your watercolors.

Instruction:

1. Ask students if they've worked with tempera paint. Discuss its factors and history. Inform students that they will be creating an aquarium of tropical fish by combining a variety of organic shapes and lines in your drawing, create your own watercolor paint, and paint the background with your watercolors.
2. Hand out drawing paper and pencils. Demonstrate on the board how to use a variety of organic shapes and lines to draw their aquariums. Make sure to demonstrate a variety of fish. Walk around to make sure students use a variety of shapes and lines.
3. Gather students by tables around you. Add Baking soda (3 tbsp), cornstarch (3 tbsp), white vinegar (3 tbsp), and syrup (2 tsp) in a bowl. Mix the ingredients. Take a spoon and add the mixture in the plastic palettes. Add 3-5 drops of food coloring and mix.
4. Hand out palettes and thin straws while students are still in your area. Send students back by table. Walk around and add the mixture and drops of food coloring to the palettes; have them mix the mixture and food coloring with the thin straws. Hand out already made watercolors, water bowls, paper towels, and paintbrushes to start their paintings. Make sure students do not paint everything as they will be using tempera paint later on in the next lesson.
5. When they are finished with the project, have students clean their areas. For those waiting for others to finish, give them the choices to help others, free draw, read a book, or work on an art center activity.
6. Have a high order thinking closure discussion when project is near the end.

Accommodations:

N/A

Higher Order Thinking Closure:

Express with your neighbor how you used a variety of organic shapes and lines to create an aquarium. Describe your watercolor painting experience.

Assessment:

Did the student complete the project? Did they do a neat job? Does their art reflect the lesson's objectives?