

Zara's Watercolour Wonders

Learning objective: To understand the techniques, materials, and characteristics of watercolour painting.

Read the front of each flashcard and try to recall the answer. Flip to the back to check your knowledge with Zara the Zebra's art tips!

What is watercolour paint made of?

Pigment mixed with a binder (usually gum arabic) that dissolves in water.

What is a 'wash' in watercolour painting?

A technique where a large area is covered with a thin, watery layer of paint to create a background colour.

What does 'wet-on-wet' mean?

Applying wet paint onto paper that has already been dampened with clear water, allowing colours to bleed and soften.

What happens when you use 'wet-on-dry' technique?

Applying wet paint onto dry paper, which creates sharp edges and more control over the shapes.

Why do we use a palette in watercolour?

To mix colours and control the amount of water added to the pigment before applying it to the paper.

What is 'bleeding' in watercolour?

When wet colours flow into each other on the paper, creating beautiful, soft transitions.

How do you make a watercolour colour lighter?

By adding more water to the paint, rather than adding white paint.

What does 'opacity' mean in painting?

How much you can see through the paint; watercolour is known for being transparent rather than opaque.

Why is special watercolour paper important?

It is thicker and designed to absorb water without buckling or tearing easily.

What is 'layering' in watercolour?

Waiting for one colour to dry completely before painting another layer on top to create depth and detail.

What is the main difference between watercolour and acrylic paint?

Watercolour is transparent and water-soluble, while acrylic is opaque and becomes waterproof when dry.

Zara's top tip: How do you fix a mistake if the paint is still wet?

Use a clean, dry brush or a paper towel to gently 'lift' or soak up the excess paint from the paper.