

Zara's Watercolour Wonders

Learning objective: To explore watercolour techniques including color mixing, washes, and layering to create a nature-inspired composition.

Follow the steps below to create your watercolour masterpiece. Remember to clean your brush thoroughly between colors and use plenty of water to create gentle, translucent layers.

Draw: Create a landscape painting of a peaceful woodland meadow. Use a 'apartment wash' technique for the sky and a 'graded wash' to show the depth of the grass from light green in the distance to a richer, darker green in the foreground. Include Zara's favorite elements: a cluster of wildflowers with delicate, layered petals and a single, textured tree trunk painted using dry-brush strokes.



Label words: Wash · Pigment · Opacity · Blending · Gradient · Layering

Steps:

1. Step 1: Create a 'wet-on-wet' wash across the top half of your paper to represent the sky. Describe how the colors behave when they touch each other.
2. Step 2: Use your brush to paint a distant tree line. Why should you use less water and more paint pigment for objects closer to the front of your picture?
3. Step 3: Label three areas on your drawing where you have used different color blending techniques.

4. Step 4: Once your paper is dry, use a fine-tipped pen to add detail to your nature scene. What happens if you try to add pen details while the paper is still wet?
5. Step 5: Zara loves patterns. Add a repeating natural pattern (like leaf veins or flower petals) to your foreground using a concentrated watercolour mix.