

Watercolour Wonders: Zara's Art Studio

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

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of watercolour techniques. Zara the zebra suggests you look at the patterns in your own paintings to see which effects you can spot!

What is a 'wash' in watercolour painting?

A technique where a large area of paper is covered with a thin, fluid layer of diluted paint to create a smooth background.

Explain the 'wet-on-wet' technique.

Applying wet paint onto paper that has already been dampened with clear water, causing the colours to spread and blend softly.

What does 'opacity' refer to in painting?

The degree to which a medium hides what is underneath it; watercolours are generally transparent rather than opaque.

Describe the 'wet-on-dry' technique.

Applying wet paint onto paper that is completely dry, allowing for crisp edges and precise details.

What is 'bleeding' in the context of watercolour?

When wet paint spreads uncontrollably into another area of wet paint or damp paper.

Define 'pigment'.

The finely ground coloured powder that gives paint its hue before it is mixed with a binder.

What is a 'resist' technique?

Using a waterproof substance, such as wax or masking fluid, to prevent paint from adhering to specific parts of the paper.

Why is high-quality watercolour paper heavier than standard printer paper?

It is designed to be thick enough to absorb large amounts of water without buckling or tearing.

Explain why you should clean your brush thoroughly between colours.

To prevent the contamination of your colour palette, ensuring your shades remain vibrant and pure.

What is the purpose of a 'binder' in paint?

A substance that holds the pigment particles together and allows the paint to stick to the painting surface.

Compare and contrast: How does the final appearance of a painting differ when using 'wet-on-wet' versus 'wet-on-dry'?

Wet-on-wet creates soft, ethereal transitions and blurred edges, whereas wet-on-dry produces sharp lines and distinct, deliberate shapes.

Justify your answer: Why might an artist choose to use a 'wash' at the beginning of a landscape painting?

It establishes a base tone and mood, creates a sense of depth, and prevents the stark whiteness of the paper from distracting from the composition.