

SUMMER CAMPS with the MAC



A Good Impression Project 3: Northern Lights Panorama

Materials

- Long strip of watercolor paper
- Watercolor paints
- Paintbrushes
- Cup of rinse water
- Paper towels
- Scratch paper for putting underneath the watercolor paper

Instructions

1. Put scratch paper underneath the strip of watercolor paper to keep table clean. Using a paintbrush, add 4-5 brush-fulls of water to and then mix with the green paint. With a controlled back-and-forth 'scribbling' motion, paint a green stripe, approximately 2 inches wide, down the middle of the strip of paper, from one end to the other, extending all the way to the edges. The stripe can have some curves and bends; it should not be straight. You will need to dip into the green paint several times, and the paint should be a bit wet.
2. Add water to the blue paint, and make a 'scribbly' stripe right above the green stripe, letting the colors blend. Make sure the paint extends all the way to the edges.
3. Add water to the purple paint, and make a 'scribbly' stripe right above the blue stripe, letting the colors blend. Make sure the paint extends all the way to the edges, and off the top of the paper strip, onto the scratch paper.
4. If you prefer more blending, use only a paintbrush of water and 'paint' the water where the different colors meet. Let this dry.
5. After the colors have dried, use the paintbrush to add water to and mix in the black paint. With a somewhat thicker paint texture, paint a landscape silhouette in black. It can include mountains, pine trees, deciduous trees, or perhaps even a small cabin. The top of the silhouette should be over the green stripe, and could overlap a little bit onto the blue stripe. The bottom of the black paint should extend off the bottom of the paper strip, onto the scratch paper. Let this dry.

Challenge Projects:

1. Paint another set of northern lights, and sprinkle salt over the wet paint. Let this dry. Brush off dried salt; it will give a special texture to the paint.
2. Using a new strip of paper, use the whole spectrum of colors to paint a rainbow. The stripes will be a bit thinner. Real rainbows always have red at the top and purple at the bottom, but you may certainly experiment with different combinations. Try using just the three primary colors of blue, yellow, and red to create all the colors.
3. Shine a light source, such as a flashlight, through a glass full of water to see if you can split the white light from the flashlight into a rainbow onto a piece of white paper under the glass. You can also show light onto a CD or DVD at an angle, or hold a magnifying glass at an angle to create rainbows. If it's a hot day, look for the sun shining through sprinklers and droplets of water, which can also create rainbows!