

## WATERCOLORS TECHNIQUES, TEXTURES AND APPLICATIONS

1. **WET ON DRY**: apply watercolor with brush to a dry area of paper to create crisp edged areas.
2. **WET IN WET**: drops of watercolor can be applied to damp washes causing “blossoms” of color as they bleed into each other. This can be an interesting “out of focus” background effect.
3. **DRY BRUSH**: apply watercolor to a dry surface with a dry brush can create fine linear textures that simulate grass, shrubs, branches... usually done as finishing touches to a painting. This uses very little watercolor and creates a rough texture.
4. **WAX CRAYON RESIST**: this may be done with colored crayon or clear wax sticks; you apply wax where you wish to repel the watercolor. Since wax resists water, when you paint over a waxed area, the paint beads up and creates interesting textural effects.
5. **MASKING TAPE BLOCK (MASK)**: use masking tape to cover up specific shapes and lines and place washes over them. The tape protects the area. When the paint is dry, remove the tape and paint details into the area.
6. **ALCOHOL**: drip drops of alcohol into wet areas of watercolor. It creates a tie-dye effect.
7. **SALT**: salt sprinkled into a wash creates a starry effect and rough texture because the salt absorbs the pigment in the paint. This technique can be used to create the effect of sand and snowflakes. This technique works best if the salt is applied before the pigment settles into the paper.
8. **SCRUNCHED PAPER TOWEL BLOT**: because paper towel is stiffer than tissue, the blot results in a combination of hard and soft edges that can be used to represent rocks.
9. **TISSUE BLOT**: you can create soft edges and cloud-like textures by blotting a damp wash with tissue
10. **PLASTIC WRAP**: can be applied to an area/wash to create interesting dark, clean-edged, crystal-like shapes that can be further painted into when dry and used to simulate rocks, fields etc.
11. **SPONGING**: sponge paint onto the paper to create textures, these can be used to suggest leaves
12. **RAZOR SCRATCH**: by scoring the paper before or after you lay down a wash, you cause indentations in the paper into which the color from the wash pools, causing fine dark lines, a great technique for fine detail. Or fine white lines if scratched after the paint is dry.
13. **ERASER**: after the paint is dry, you can lightly soften areas and create fuzzy, gentle tonal variations by erasing
14. **SPLATTER**: paint can be applied to a wet or dry wash area by splattering from a toothbrush to create effects such as falling snow, fog, rain, white water
15. **SOFTENING EDGES**: creates gentle edges by rewetting. If you want to blend to create the effect of 3D, after you lay down a color, quickly rinse and wipe your brush, and pull it along the wet edge of watercolor. Continue to rinse and extend the edge until it has lost its crispness. Excellent technique for lending effect of realism to a painting.

# MORE---WATERCOLORS

## TECHNIQUES, TEXTURES AND APPLICATIONS

1. Use **liquid mask** (another **MASK technique**) in a small area. Allow to dry. Watercolor over dry area. Let Dry. Rub off liquid mask.
2. **WASH**: Start with damp paper and a loaded brush, make a firm movement across the paper, and repeat until area is covered.  
They are transparent, even layers of color used to work into large background areas, such as skies and water.
3. **GRADED WASHES**: Begin with damp paper and load the brush with color, evenly across the page, continue until the color loses saturation. The washes that vary in density and color from one side to the other.
4. Use a watercolor wash to lay down some areas of color. While it is still wet, go into the wash with a **pastel** piece.
5. Draw with **charcoal**. Using clean water and a brush go into the charcoal and blend to make value changes.
6. Use a regular **pencil or graphite stick** to add lines to a watercolor wash you have already laid down.
7. Use bright colors of **crayons and/or oil pastels**. Overlap some colors. Paint over/ into your drawing with watercolor wash.
8. Use something pointed (like an exacto knife blade) and scrape back into the waxy surface for another effect.
9. Lay on a layered wash of deep colors. Sprinkle **sugar** onto the wash. Do NOT disturb until dry.
10. Lay on a layered wash of deep colors. Sprinkle coffee, **dirt, clay or pebbles** onto it. Do NOT disturb until dry.
11. Toothbrush - Dip the brush into various colors and 'spritz' the bristles onto the stencils – great for textural effects.
12. Paint some deep colors. Use the edge of hard plastic or cardboard to scrape and push the paint away.



