Watercolor painting and the outdoors go hand-in-hand.

This toolbox includes supplies and lesson plans to get you started observing and painting outside whether you are out exploring in the wilderness, the park down the street, or your front yard.

WHAT’S IN THIS TOOLBOX?

Prang Watercolor Set
Size 8, Round Sable Brush
White Crayon
Pocket Color Wheel
Watercolor paper

Jumbo Painting Postcard
(send us your thoughts!)

Art Lessons for all ages
VOCABULARY

Water Soluble: A substance that can be dissolved with water.

Luminosity: Having a quality that appears to give off light.

Transparency: Allowing light to pass through so that objects behind can be seen.

Resist: something added to an artwork to create shapes and lines by protecting those parts during the next stages. The wax of the crayon will resist the paint and protect the white of the page.

Pigment: The part of the paint that gives it color.

Saturated: To be thoroughly soaked with liquid. In art, saturation can also refer to the intensity of color.

AGES 5-7
Collect the Color Wheel
Leaf Lines

AGES 8-12
Collect the Color Scheme
Shadow Shapes

AGES 13+
En Plein Air
Phenology Wheels
INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS THE MACTIVITIES TOOLBOX?

These lessons are designed as guided experiments with art making techniques that will help you learn new skills.

While the theme of each toolbox will vary, you can expect to be challenged to look closer at your surroundings, learn about the ways artists solve problems, use your imagination, and develop your own sense of artistic style.

With each toolbox you’ll build your library of lessons and add to your own studio by collecting each set of supplies.

WHAT IS WATERCOLOR PAINT? WHAT IS SO SPECIAL ABOUT IT? WHEN DID ARTISTS START USING IT?

Watercolor is one of the oldest and most accessible methods of painting in the world. The first watercolors date all the way back to cave paintings and have been used to record our environment ever since. What makes watercolor so popular is that the artist only needs basic materials making it a perfect option for travel and outside observational painting. Watercolor is unique among other types of paint as it is water soluble without a lot of fillers, allowing the artist to experiment with luminosity and transparency.
HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR ART MATERIALS

It is important to take care of your art materials so they will last a long time. Keep these tips in mind and remember to clean your brushes after each painting session.

- Wet your brush thoroughly before you begin to paint.
- Do not press hard with your brush onto the paint pad or paper.
- Do not let paint dry on your brush.
- Rinse brush in a jar of clean water between colors.
- Do not leave your brushes bristles down in rinse water.

HOW TO CLEAN YOUR BRUSHES

- Rinse your brush thoroughly in clean water.
- Shake your brush vigorously to remove excess water.
- Gently smooth the bristles with your fingers to reshape the brush.
- If there is color appearing on your fingers at this step, rewash using a mild soap.
- Lay your brush flat and allow it to air dry.
- After the brushes are entirely dry you can store them bristles up in a jar, or horizontally in a safe place.
HOW TO USE YOUR WATERCOLORS

Watercolors are extremely versatile. Use your smaller paper to experiment with the techniques on the following page and have fun! When painting you might find it helpful to use masking tape to secure your paper (around the edges) to a hard surface to avoid bending and buckling.

EXPERIMENTS TO TRY

To keep the white of the page use masking tape then peel off when paint is dry. You can also use a wax crayon to create a resist. Sprinkle salt or rice onto wet bold paper. When the paint is dry scratch off the salt or rice to reveal a grainy texture. For a less controlled texture you can do the same with crumpled up plastic wrap or crumpled up paper, the pigment will pool around where the saran wrap or paper touches the watercolor paper. Don’t remove until the paint has dried!
**TECHNIQUES**

**FLAT WASH** is the most simple way to apply color. Dip your brush into water then dip it into your paint. Apply paint to your paper to make a smooth even color with little variation.

**WET ON DRY WASH** After a light wash has dried on your paper you can go back in with wet paint. The transparency of watercolor should allow you to see the previous layer.

**WET ON WET WASH** creates a flowy soft look. Using your largest brush wet your paper with just water. Dip your wet brush into the paint and lightly dot it onto the wet paper. The pigment will fan out.

**GRADED WASH** allows you to transition from dark to light. Start with a wet brush loaded with pigment. Pass the brush onto the paper. With your next passes use less and less pigment and overlap the previous still wet layer.

**DRY BRUSH** technique creates a highly textured mark great for tree bark or hair. Use a mostly dry brush dipped in pigment and apply paint to dry paper.
COLOR THEORY

Color Theory creates a structure for which color can be organized and helps you to choose and mix colors.

The Color Wheel is a way of organizing colors to show how they relate to each other.

This system is based on the Primary Colors (red, yellow and blue). In painting, these three colors combined can create all other colors.

Secondary Colors are created by mixing any two primary colors together to create green, orange and purple.

Tertiary Colors are created by mixing any 1 primary color with any 1 secondary color, resulting in colors like yellow-orange, red-orange, red-violet, blue violet, blue-green, and yellow-green.
COLOR SCHEMES

Color Harmony is a pleasing arrangement of colors that creates balance without being chaotic or boring. These arrangements are often found in nature. Here are a few types of color schemes using your color wheel.

**COMPLEMENTARY** colors are the opposite colors on the color wheel such as red and green. These colors create a vibrant contrast.

**ANALOGOUS** colors are three colors sitting next to each other on the color wheel, such as green, blue-green and blue. In this pleasing color scheme, choose one dominant color, one color to support, and use a third as an accent.

**TRIADIC** color scheme uses three colors that are evenly spaced throughout the color wheel, such as orange, violet and green. These vibrant combinations are best when you allow one color to dominate and the others to accent.
ONLINE RESOURCES*
*Go find a grown-up to use the internet with you!

Learn more about **Phenology Wheels**
[https://www.montananaturalist.org/blog-post/make-your-own-phenology-wheel/](https://www.montananaturalist.org/blog-post/make-your-own-phenology-wheel/)

Learn more about **Color Theory**
[https://drawpaintacademy.com/color-schemes/](https://drawpaintacademy.com/color-schemes/)

Learn more about **Watercolor Techniques**
[https://mymodernmet.com/watercolor-techniques/](https://mymodernmet.com/watercolor-techniques/)  
[https://watercoloraffair.com](https://watercoloraffair.com)

Learn more about about **Watercolor Paper**
[https://youtu.be/HTfIlewr_l4](https://youtu.be/HTfIlewr_l4)

To see examples of **watercolor paintings** from all over the world and throughout time, explore “Watercolor”
[https://artsandculture.google.com](https://artsandculture.google.com)

Look at artists **Albrecht Durer, John James Audubon, Georgia O’Keeffe** on Google Arts and Culture. They are well known for using watercolor to record observations of the natural world.
CONTEMPORARY WATERCOLOR ARTISTS

Lourdes Sanchez
https://lourdesanchez.com/geos/

Jaako Mattila
http://www.jaakkomattila.fi/works/paper

Jeffery Simmons
http://www.jeffreysimmonsstudio.com/

Artspace: Watercolors
https://www.artspace.com/tags/watercolors

REGIONAL WATERCOLOR ARTISTS

Palouse Watercolor Society
http://www.palousewatercolorsociety.com/home

City of Moscow Artist Directory
https://moscowarts.submittable.com/gallery/cf5e715a-19da-4ae9-8b7f-c9db617b8791