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ARCHITECTURE WATERCOLOR PAINTING GRADES 5-8

Materials:

1. Watercolor Paints
2. Palette to mix colors
3. Watercolor Paper
4. Paintbrushes
5. Cup of Water
6. 1 Paper Towel
7. Masking Tape
8. Salt
9. Plastic Wrap



[Art Kits are also available for purchase from Blue Line Arts](#)

Instructions:

1. Set up your workstation

Begin by setting up your watercolor painting workstation. Lay your watercolor paper out in front of you and the rest of your materials beside you.

2. Sketch

Using a pencil, draw a horizon line through the center of your paper, separating the sky from the ground. In the middle of your paper, lightly draw the outline of a building or a different piece of architecture.

3. Technique: Masking

Use your masking tape to make a border around your architecture. To make sure the masking tape doesn't rip the painting underneath, make your tape less sticky by sticking and unsticking it on a piece of fabric or your clothes. When the tape is less sticky, use it to line the edges of the building. Use watercolors to fill in the building inside the tape, creating nice straight lines. Let dry and then remove the tape carefully.

4. Technique: Wet on Wet Wash

Wet the white areas of your paper (the sky and the ground) using your paintbrush and clean

water. Then, on top of the wet surface, paint with a color of your choice. This is called a Wet on Wet Wash technique, where you paint with wet paints on top of wet paper. Your paint should spread and flow all across the wet surface. Add more paint and different colors. Experiment with using more water and less paint or less water and more paint to see what kinds of colors you get. Practice making your ground area more **opaque** and your sky area more **transparent**.

5. Try more techniques

Plastic Wrap: While your paint is still wet, lay bunched up plastic wrap on top of it and press it down lightly. Let your paint dry and then remove the plastic wrap to see the line effects it created.

Salt: Add a sprinkle of salt onto your wet paint and let dry. Lightly brush off salt when dried.

Blot: Using your paper towel, gently dab or blot wet paint, lifting the paint from the surface and creating a more transparent look.

Glaze: In watercolor terms, glazing refers to painting directly on top of a underlying wash of watercolor when it has dried. Glaze to create details in your building and in the ground using more **opaque** colors.

6. Let it dry

Let your painting dry completely before displaying.

7. Sign It

Now that your painting is complete, make sure you sign your name on a front corner, or on the back with the date you completed your work.

8. Artist Statement

Now that you have signed your work it is ready to share. Create a 2-4 sentence statement about your painting. This could include: why you chose certain colors, or landscape features?

Techniques and materials you used or anything you would like the viewer to know when looking at your painting.

9. Congratulations!

Your painting and work of art is complete! Take a photo with your work and artist statement to share with classmates, teacher, and the Blue Line Arts Gallery: Info@bluelinearts.org



This watercolor project is inspired by the work "[Summer Shadows](#)" by [Michael Dunlavey](#) at Blue Line Arts