

Watercolors with Texture from a Chemical Reaction

1st - 3rd Grade



Materials Needed:

Display My Art drawing paper, cups of water, watercolor paints, paintbrushes, table salt, crayons or markers, pencils

Instructions:

1. Talk about "TEXTURE" with kids. Ask them to name things with texture that they see everyday, like the bark on trees, or the fur on animals, ripples in water, or even the different textures of their clothes. Tell them that they are going to create texture in their paintings with a chemical reaction of everyday table salt and their paints. The salt will absorb the water while leaving pigment behind and will create light spots wherever the salt lands. This gives their paintings the appearance of texture!
2. **CREATING WATERCOLOR PAINTING:** Have the children draw **LIGHTLY** with pencil whatever subject they would like to paint. Have them mix their watercolor paints with water. Tell them to paint their subject with vibrant colors. Sprinkle table salt over the **WET** paint. Have them watch as the salt changes the paint they have applied. They may wish to paint and sprinkle salt in a series of steps to create their painting, as the salt **MUST** be sprinkled on **WET** paint. Have them then paint the **ENTIRE** background with vibrant colors as well. Again, tell the kids to sprinkle salt on the background areas where they would like the appearance of texture. Make sure to tell students that they must allow their painting to dry **COMPLETELY** before they attempt to brush off the salt. Place student paintings on a flat surface to dry. Once painting is **COMPLETELY** dry, have students brush off any salt over a trash can. Then, if they would like to, they may outline any image they wish with crayons or markers.
3. **DON'T FORGET TO PUT STUDENT NAME AND YEAR ON THE DRAWING**, at least one inch away from outside border.