KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

How can artists use watercolour techniques to create different effects and communicate ideas?

MY LEARNING JOURNEY

1. What makes watercolour different from other paints?
2. How can artists create different effects using watercolour?
3. How do artists build colour, tone and depth using layers?
4. How do artists use watercolour to communicate mood and atmosphere?
5. How can we create an original watercolour artwork?

Previously, I learnt to…

- Use tone to create form and depth.
- Use colour to communicate meaning.
- Create self-portraits using mixed media.
- Select materials for a purpose.
- Evaluate and improve my artwork.

In this unit, I am learning to…

- ❑ Use watercolour confidently.
- ❑ Explain wet on wet and wet on dry techniques.
- ❑ Create gradients and washes.
- ❑ Use layering to build colour, tone and depth.
- ❑ Create effects using blooming, blotting and salt.
- ❑ Use watercolour to create mood and atmosphere.
- ❑ Select techniques purposefully for a final outcome.
- ❑ Evaluate and refine my work.

Looking ahead: In KS3, I will learn to…

- Use a wider range of painting techniques independently.
- Select media based on artistic intention.
- Refine a personal artistic style.
- Analyse and compare artists' use of colour and technique.
- Create increasingly complex compositions.

VOCABULARY

Word	Meaning
Watercolour	A transparent paint mixed with water to create layers and effects.
Wet on Wet	Applying paint to a wet surface so colours blend softly.
Wet on Dry	Applying paint to dry paper for controlled marks and sharp edges.
Wash	Watery paint that covers a page with pale colour.
Gradient	A smooth transition from dark to light or one colour to another.
Layering	Applying transparent layers to build colour, tone and depth.
Bloom	An effect created by dropping water or paint into a wet area.
Blot	Removing wet paint to create lighter tones, highlights or texture.
Study	Artwork created to practise techniques or explore ideas.
Technique	A method used to create an effect in artwork.
Contrast	Differences used to make something stand out.
Composition	How objects are arranged within an artwork.

Painting and Mixed Media – Year 6

1

Watercolour

Watercolour is a transparent paint mixed with water. Artists use it to create soft blends, build transparent layers and produce a range of effects.

2

Gradients and Washes

A wash is a pale layer of watery paint. A gradient is a gradual change from dark to light, light to dark or one colour to another. Artists use these for backgrounds, skies and atmosphere.

3

Layering

Layering means building colour using transparent watercolour layers. Artists layer paint to deepen colours, create tone and add depth. Layering allows artists to create more complex images.

4

Wet on Wet / Wet on Dry

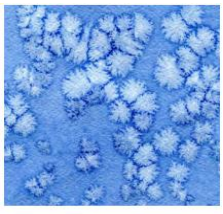
Wet on wet: paint is applied to wet paper, creating soft edges, blended colours and atmospheric effects.
Wet on dry: paint is applied to dry paper, creating sharp edges, clearer details and more control.

5

Create Watercolour Effects

Bloom – dropping water into wet paint.
Blotting – lifting paint away.
Salt – adding salt to wet paint to create texture.
These techniques help artists create mood, texture and atmosphere.


wet on wet


salt


layering


gradient


bloom


wet on dry

Examples of watercolour techniques and effects