

ART · GRADES 3–5

Watercolor Basics

Three techniques every watercolorist needs

Three techniques

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| <p>1 — Wet-on-wet</p> <p>Brush clean water onto the paper first, then drop watery paint into it. The paint spreads and blends softly. Great for: skies, distant hills, dreamy backgrounds.</p> | <p>2 — Wet-on-dry</p> <p>Paint with wet paint onto DRY paper. Edges stay crisper. Great for: shapes, leaves, defined details.</p> |
| <p>3 — Dry brush</p> <p>Use a paintbrush with very LITTLE water — almost dry. Drag across the paper. Creates a textured, scratchy look. Great for: tree bark, fur, grass texture.</p> | |

Try this — three squares

Divide a page into 3 squares. Square 1: paint a sky using wet-on-wet. Square 2: paint three simple leaves using wet-on-dry. Square 3: paint a patch of grass using dry brush. Compare the textures and edges.

