



In this art lesson, students will explore seasonal art and determine what season the art represents. Next, they will dream up their own seasonal art by working with watercolors to create a painting of a snowy landscape.

NATIONAL ART STANDARDS

- VA:Pr4.1.2a - Categorize artwork based on a theme or concept for an exhibit.

OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Students will be able to categorize artwork based on seasons.
- ✓ Students will be able to create a watercolor painting of a snowy landscape.

MATERIALS

- Watercolor paints
- Containers to hold water
- Paintbrushes
- Watercolor paper
- Images of seasonal art from online sources





ACTIVITY

- Display pictures of seasonal artwork from online sources.
- Invite the students to place the artwork into categories based on what season the artwork represents (e.g., fall, winter, spring, summer).
- Allow the students time to share their reasoning.
 - For example, a student might say, “I think this artwork represents spring because of the rain and pastel colors.”
- Explain to the students that today they will create a watercolor painting of a snowy landscape. Invite the students to share what season it snows. Confirm that they will be creating art around the theme of winter.
- Get out the watercolor paper, watercolors, paintbrushes, and containers filled with water.
- Find snowy landscape pictures online and display them to inspire students.
- Model how to begin the watercolor painting.
 - Sketch a horizon line near the bottom third of the page. Explain that this is where the ground meets the sky.
 - Wet the entire top portion of the paper above the horizon line with a clean brush and water.
 - Use a diluted mix of blue watercolor to mix the sky. Allow the color to fade as you move down, creating a lighter wash near the horizon.
 - Use purple or gray to create a wintry, somber feel.
 - Leave the lower section of the paper white to represent the snow.
 - Use a light wash of blue or gray at the bottom of the sky to create shadows in the snow. Utilize blending to make the painting feel soft and natural.
- Explain to the students that once the sky and snow have dried, you will add tree silhouettes and other details like a snowdrift, shadows, distant hills, and winter animals to make the painting come alive.
- Allow the students time to create their watercolor paintings.
- Once the paintings have dried, display them in a visible space and partake in a gallery walk to encourage students to describe their paintings to others.

