

HOW HAS ART CHANGED THROUGHOUT TIME?

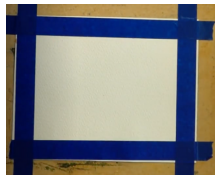
FAMILY LEARNING ACTIVITY

GOAL: Explore a watercolor technique that changes over time.

- MATERIALS:**
- Watercolor paints
 - Pencil
 - Medium-sized paintbrush
 - Water cup
 - White watercolor paper or thicker paper
 - White crayon
 - Salt
 - Painter's or artist's tape

STEPS:

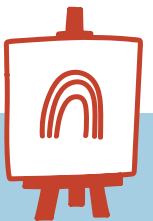
1. Tape your watercolor paper down on a flat surface using one piece of tape on each side. Your tape pieces should act like a border around your artwork and should cover up some of the paper.



2. On your watercolor paper, draw an animal with your pencil. Leave some room on the edges of your drawing so you can use it later for something else.

Be careful to press lightly so your lines are not too dark.

3. Draw over your design with white crayon.



FUN FACT!

Watercolor is one of the oldest paint forms that we know of, dating all the way back to **40,000 to 10,000 BC!** The earliest paintings were found on the walls of caves, where artists focused on painting the natural world around them, including all the animals they saw.

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Finished artwork

4. Mix some water in with your watercolor paint and cover your **entire** piece of paper and design with paint. Use as many colors as you'd like.
5. While your paint is still wet, sprinkle some salt around your design. (A little salt goes a LONG way.)
6. Watch how the salt changes the paint over time.
7. Once your paint is completely dry, gently rub off the salt with your fingers and remove the tape.

DISCUSSION:

- Did you know that people made art on cave walls over 35,000 years ago?
- What do you think those artists created? **Visit the link below to find out!**
- How is your art different from artwork made by artists in the past? How is it similar?
- Where will your artwork be in 35,000 years?
- Have past cave artists made art using the same animal you used? How is their artwork similar to or different from yours?

QUICK TIP:

To help control where your watercolor paint goes, try spreading just water on the area you want to paint first and then add the paint to that water.



FOR MORE DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS, INFORMATION, AND IDEAS, VISIT:

Watercolor technique videos: <https://youtu.be/iTKRxsQyQ6k> &
<https://youtu.be/uBGe1dWHZ0M>

Cave art: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/journey-oldest-cave-paintings-world-180957685/>