

# Watercolor Science Lesson

Art and science are natural partners. This kit will dive into the chemical reactions that occur when you combined different materials with watercolor. To use your materials as an artist and scientist would you need to first learn the vocabulary. Our first word is **activate**. Activate means to make something operative. Your watercolor paint needs to be activated. Without water they are not ready for you to operate. You can activate them by adding water. Dip your paintbrush in a cup of water and then apply water to the color or colors you'd like to use. Be careful not to mix your colors. If you drop one color into the next by mistake simply wipe the water away with a paper towel.

Fold or tape off your paper into thirds (3 different sections). In the first section we are going to brush a color from our watercolor pan from left to right. The mixed media paper is a heavier weight than a sheet of copy paper. This will help hold your paint without warping the paper.

Move to the next section and use the white crayon from your crayon box to draw two lines. (Be sure to press down firmly). Then "mop" your brush across the lines by dipping it in your favorite color on the watercolor pan and brushing your paintbrush from left to right. What happened when you painted over the crayon? The crayon should have resisted or repelled the watercolor paint. This happens because the crayon is **insoluble**. Insoluble means incapable of being dissolved. The water is not able to dissolve the wax.

The last exercise is to paint or "mop" your brush across the last section of your paper. While the paint is still wet, sprinkle some salt on top. What happened? The salt crystals soak up liquid from the watercolor paint creating areas with less pigment or color. The salt absorbs moisture because of its **soluble** properties while repelling pigments, creating texture. What other items around your house are soluble or insoluble?

To learn more about what your watercolor paint can do watch the videos listed below. Have fun and send us your pictures!

## Resources:

### "Salt Watercolor Technique - which salt works best?" (3 minutes)

Mr. Otter's Art Studio presents this cool video on which salt works best for creating watercolor texture. The salt in your kit is table salt. If you have the other salts listed in the video try the experiment for yourself.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmeW2kz5REQ>

**“Watercolor resist painting - drawing outer space with crayons and watercolor paints” (10 minutes)**

This video will demonstrate watercolor resist painting by showing how to draw the solar system.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDMq-X9c-bY>

**“Easy watercolor painting ideas for beginners step by step” (10 minutes)**

This is a helpful video on how to apply a wash and blend your watercolor paint. This video will teach you how to paint sunsets, mountains, and a night sky.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kojEoKgrTY>