Watercolor Wonders

Presenter: Kathy Olson

Grade Level: elementary – middle school

Art Standards:
2.21 Demonstrate skill in the use of basic tools and artmaking processes
3.2.4 Create a work of art based on the observation of objects and scenes in daily life.

Learning Objectives:
Students will explore and experiment with twelve watercolor techniques for more expressive paintings
Students will create a painting using selected techniques.

Vocabulary:
Watercolor, wet on wet, texture, stroke, resist, masking, dry brush, loading the brush

Materials:
pencils
Prang watercolors – preferably set of 16 ovals
Brushes
Water cups and water
Watercolor paper or 80lb drawing paper 12x18
Drafting or masking tape
Salt
Alcohol
Kleenex or toilet paper
Small sponges
Toothbrushes
Plastic wrap
Crayons
Paper towels

Procedure:
Pass out materials in plastic trays or as needed.
Divide paper into 12 sections using tape. 3 strips vertically and 3 strips horizontally to create 12 sections.
Label each section with the following techniques:
Wet on dry
Wet on wet
Salt
Alcohol
Kleenex lifting
Masking Tape
Plastic Wrap
Crayon Resist
Toothbrush
Dry Brush
Sponge
“You Pick Two”

Demonstrate each technique and has students try each one on their paper. “You Pick Two” can be any two techniques in the last section.

Leave salt and plastic wrap on paper until paint is completely dry. Then remove.

Assessment:
Students look at their techniques and choose which are successful, new to them, or need another try.

Exit slip of reflection questions:
Which techniques were successful? Which techniques would you try again to improve? Which techniques were new to you? What technique would you use for stars, snow, ice, tree bark, clouds, etc.? 