

Winter Night Painting

Objective: Students will create a colorful tree images using crayon or oil pastel resist and bleeding tissue.

Topics & Keywords for Discussion: color mixing, resist, bleeding tissue, color transfer, mood

Materials: bleeding tissue paper (blue, purple, green), multi-media or water color paper, oil pastels (white and/or black) or crayons (white and/or black), spray bottle with water or paintbrush with water.



Opening activity: Color mixing! Review the primary colors with students and how secondary colors can be made by mixing 2 of the 3 primary colors together: red + blue = purple; red + yellow = orange; yellow + blue = green.

Core Activity: Start by defining your tree in oil pastel or crayon on the watercolor or multimedia paper. Students can do this in black or white (although white is challenging: save the white outline style for older students!). Draw your tree's roots trunk, limbs and branches. These trees are NOT strong, healthy vibrant trees: to draw them in a winter mood they are tired and withered. The trunk and branches should be drawn 'thin', this will give them a stark look. Make white dots with crayon or oil pastel for stars in the sky (you can also use dots of glue and sprinkle glitter to make the stars, AFTER the bleeding tissue process, below)

Lightly brush or spray the surface of the paper with water.

Then, take cut strips of bleeding tissue paper in green and lay them around the tree's roots, at the base of the trunk. Take cut strips of bleeding tissue paper in blue and purple shades and lay them all around the tree. Wet the strips of tissue paper so the color bleeds directly onto the artwork: use a spray bottle or paint brush with water to get the tissue paper wet enough to release the color.

When the tissue has dried, gently remove each piece to see how the color bled through.

Reflection: Why don't the trees in Florida lose their leaves like trees in other parts of the world? Why do the trees lose their leaves? What is the mood of this piece of art? How does the mood of the art reflect the 'mood' of winter?