

Food Coloring Galaxy Painting

Virtual Creative Workshop Instructor Amy J. Fisher

SUPPLIES

Paper (watercolor paper or white posterboard)
Big paint brushes (round preferable)
Cups for water and mixing paint
Tape (optional)
Food Coloring (or watercolor paint)
An image of a galaxy for reference
Black paint
Paper towels
White paint



STEP ONE | SETTING UP YOUR PAPER AND WORK SURFACE

- Cover work surface and children's clothes. Cookie sheets are perfect for catching excess paint as well as moving artwork to a suitable place to dry.
- Tape paper to work surface to keep the paper from curling up when wet.
- With a cup of water and a clean brush cover paper with a thin coat of water and allow a few moments for the paper to absorb the water.

STEP TWO | CREATING YOUR PAINT & LOOKING AT A GALAXY

- Mix a drop of food coloring (or watercolor) in a cup with a small amount of water and mix.
- Test food coloring paint on a scrap piece of paper to test the color.
- Find a photo of a galaxy and notice what colors you see and the order the colors are in as they radiate out from its center.
- Arrange your colors in order of the colors in the galaxy photo.

STEP THREE | LAYING DOWN COLOR BY WORKING WET INTO WET

- With a wet brush select the color closest to the center and dab the color in the center of your paper leaving white spots. Watch as the paint floats and moves across the wet paper (this painting technique is called wet into wet).
- Move onto the next color slowly working out towards the edges with each color.
- Remember to leave some spots; the paint will continue to move around as your work.
- Keep paper towels nearby in case your paper gets too wet.

STEP FOUR | *CREATING THE DARK EDGES OF SPACE*

- Once you have used all of your food coloring colors and are near the edges of your paper it is time to add the darkness of space.
- Water down black paint by adding a little water. (I added acrylic to my purple wash of food coloring.)

STEP FIVE | *LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE AS YOU APPLY THE DARKNESS (PAPER TOWELS!)*

- With your brush, work from the outside edges in dabbing black paint on your paper.
- Leave patches of bright color especially the middle.
- Blot with paper towels if black paint begins to overtake your colorful areas.
- Allow work to dry completely.

STEP SIX | *SHOOTING FOR THE STARS*

- Cover workspace and clothes or go outside.
- With white paint and an old toothbrush, practice splattering paint on a scrap piece of paper.
- Dip dry toothbrush in paint. Blot on paper towel.
- While holding toothbrush, run thumb over bristles near scrap paper.
- Teamwork may also be helpful. The older artist may want to hold the brush while the younger artist flicks the paint by running their finger over the bristles.
- Experiment, have fun and develop a technique that works for you before spraying your dry galaxy painting with stars.

CONGRATULATIONS you created your very own little galaxy!

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL | *Things to consider...*

Science | Look up the planets in our solar system and on a separate paper in any medium create planets to cut out and glue onto your solar system.

Illustrate | Create a narrative of your own by drawing spaceships, aliens, talking doughnuts, or yourself on a separate sheet of paper in the medium of your choice and cutting them and glue sticking them to your galaxy painting.