

Thriving Kind Module 31 - Blooms, Blossoms, & Pollinators

Materials Needed:

- acrylic or craft paint
- medium and small paint brushes
- watercolor set
- a cup of water
- paper towel
- watercolor paper

Introduction by Tammy

1. Gather your materials and fill a small container with water. We will be working with acrylic paint later on in this project, which can permanently stain clothes - some artists like to use an apron when working with it and roll up their sleeves.

Mix up some light blue watercolor paint by adding about three brushfuls of water to your blue watercolor paint in your set, mixing the water and pigment. Sketch out a few clouds for the sky of your landscape.



2. Next, use your paintbrush to draw a horizon line in your painting - the line between the sky and the land. Use your brush to paint the sky in light blue, leaving your clouds white.



3. Rinse your brush in your clean cup of water to change colors. Add water to your watercolor set to mix up a light green for the land in your landscape. I recommend leaving a small gap between the land and the sky to keep the colors from bleeding into one another.



4. With your grass painted, leave it to dry and listen to the second part of Tammy's guided practice.



Tammy's Practice

5. With your painting dry or close to dry, we will switch to acrylic paints to paint our flowers and pollinators. Start by using a yellow or orange paint to make the centers of our flowers. You will make your larger shapes towards the bottom of the painting, where flowers would appear closer to the viewer.



6. Add smaller circular shapes higher up in your landscape to create a sense of perspective within your flowers. You may find your yellow circles pop with a second coat of paint.



7. Wash your brush and begin forming the petals of your flowers, starting with the largest flowers at the bottom of your picture. You can use any color and shape, and create a field of flowers of the same color and type or a nice variety.



8. Fill in your petals and then work on the other flowers in your landscape, working from bottom to top.



9. As with the centers of your flowers, you may need to add two coats of acrylic paint to create a bright, solid color.



10. Add your pollinators! Consider butterflies, dragonflies, and bees. Here I am creating a very simple butterfly, using a small brush to create the body and antennae.



11. Here I am adding the wings in green acrylic paint.



12. Begin adding texture and depth to your meadow of flowers by using green watercolor paint to create grass, stems, and leaves. Smaller marks will go higher up in the piece and appear farther away, while larger marks for leaves and stems appear closer to the viewer and are at the bottom of the piece.



13. A variety of textures and marks add visual interest.



14. Here is an example of the completed piece. As always, these steps and instructions are just a guide and serve as inspiration and structure for the artists who need it. If your meadow ends up with trees, animals, or sunsets - follow your own voice.

