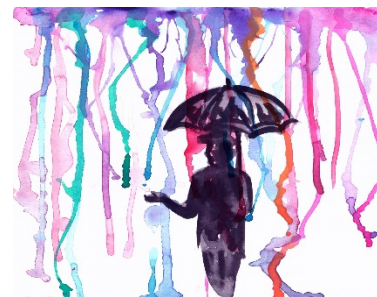


Painting with Rain!

(Suggested Ages: 4+)



Gather

- White watercolor paper OR cardstock
- Watercolor set (Crayola or Prang brands work best!)
- Paintbrush
- Container of water for rinsing brush

Let's Create!

1. Add a few drops of water to each color in the watercolor set to soften them.
2. Swirl the brush in one of the colors to fill the brush bristles with paint.
3. Apply the paint thickly to the watercolor paper or cardstock. Remember, the rain will distort the paint, so aim for a more abstract look than a realistic painting. Circles, lines, squiggles, and other shapes work well.
4. Take the painting outside and lay it on a flat surface (like a sidewalk) when it is raining.
5. Watch how the shapes and colors splash and blend!
6. When you are satisfied with the effect, carefully pick up the paper, keeping it as level as possible, and bring it indoors to dry on a flat surface.

How Does it Work?

Watercolor paint is unique because, even after it dries, a painting can be reactivated by adding more water. This is because water can dissolve the paint over and over again - water is a really good **solvent**. Water is actually referred to as **the universal solvent** because it is so good at dissolving. Salt, sugar, and even minerals in rocks are dissolved by water. But water can't dissolve everything, and that's a good thing, otherwise we wouldn't want to go out in the rain!

Take it Further!

Try adding crayon drawing to your rain painting before you brush on the paint. The wax creates a seal that will not allow the watercolor to absorb into the paper.

To experiment with dissolving, see what happens when you try to dissolve sugar with cold water vs. hot water. What differences do you observe? For more information, visit:

http://www.chem4kids.com/files/matter_solution.html

https://www.ducksters.com/science/chemistry/solutions_and_dissolving.php