

## Forms of Art

### Watercolor

Watercolor is a very popular painting **technique**<sup>1</sup> with artists of all skill levels. The paint used for water coloring is hard in form. When water is added to it, the painter can apply the paint easily to paper. You need a special type of paper when water coloring. The special paper is a bit thicker than regular paper. It allows the water from the paint to be **absorbed**<sup>2</sup> and not run or soak through the paper.

Artists can control the **intensity**<sup>3</sup> of watercolors by adding more or less water to the paint. The more water you put on your brush, the lighter the color will be. For darker colors, you should use only a little bit of water. Watercolor equipment is light and easy to use outdoors. The paintings also dry quickly. For this reason, many artists use this technique to make quick sketches or studies of nature.

Believe it or not, watercolors have been used since ancient times in Egypt, China, and India. Throughout the ages, artists have played with watercolors. They've tried different papers and different water levels. Maybe you should take up water coloring and experiment with it.

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<sup>1</sup> **technique** – a method or way of doing something that requires skill, as in the arts, sports, or sciences

<sup>2</sup> **absorbed** – soaked up

<sup>3</sup> **intensity** – the strength of something

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Watercolors are for
  - a. experienced artists.
  - b. inexperienced artists.
  - c. elderly people.
  - d. all people.
  
2. Why is there special paper for water coloring?
  - a. Watercolors are very thick.
  - b. Normal paper wouldn't absorb watercolors.
  - c. The colors aren't as good on other paper.
  - d. Watercolors need thin paper.
  
3. Which of the following is not mentioned in this passage?
  - a. Mixing colors
  - b. Using different amounts of water
  - c. How long watercolors have been around
  - d. Watercolor paper
  
4. When you add less water, the paint it becomes
  - a. runny.
  - b. lighter.
  - c. darker.
  - d. difficult to work with.
  
5. The passage "Watercolor" is mostly about
  - a. experiments with paint
  - b. types of paper
  - c. the color of water
  - d. a painting technique

6. Imagine you are trying to convince a friend to experiment with watercolor painting. What would you tell them about the technique to get them to try it?

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7. How long have watercolors been around?

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8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

Watercolors have been used for a long time in some places, \_\_\_\_\_, in China.

- a. ultimately
- b. but not
- c. for example
- d. after

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

Artists make the paint color lighter by adding more water to it.

Who? artists

(do) What? \_\_\_\_\_

How? \_\_\_\_\_

10. **Vocabulary Word:** intensity: very great or extreme in strength or degree.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Teacher Guide and Answers**

**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 810

**Featured Text Structure:** Descriptive – the writer explains, defines or illustrates a concept or topic

**Passage Summary:** Watercolor is a popular painting technique for artists at all skill levels and has been around for a long time. You add water to the paint, which means it works well outdoors and requires special paper.

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  - a. experienced artists.
  - b. inexperienced artists.
  - c. elderly people.
  - d. **all people.**
2. Why is there special paper for water coloring?
  - a. Watercolors are very thick.
  - b. **Normal paper wouldn't absorb watercolors.**
  - c. The colors aren't as good on other paper.
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3. Which of the following is not mentioned in this passage?
  - a. **Mixing colors**
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  - c. How long watercolors have been around
  - d. Watercolor paper
4. When you add less water, the paint it becomes
  - a. runny.
  - b. lighter.
  - c. **darker.**
  - d. difficult to work with.
5. The passage "Watercolor" is mostly about
  - a. experiments with paint
  - b. types of paper
  - c. the color of water
  - d. **a painting technique**

6. Imagine you are trying to convince a friend to experiment with watercolor painting. What would you tell them about the technique to get them to try it?

**Suggested answer:** Answers will vary but could include how watercolor painting is easy for all people to learn, you can paint anything you want, and you can do it almost anywhere because the equipment is easy to carry.

7. How long have watercolors been around?

**Suggested answer:** Watercolors have been around since ancient times in Egypt, China, and India. [paragraph 3]

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

Watercolors have been used for a long time in some places, \_\_\_\_\_, in China.

- a. ultimately
- b. but not
- c. for example**
- d. after

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

Artists make the paint color lighter by adding more water to it.

Who? artists

(do) What? **make the paint color lighter**

How? **by adding more water to it**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** intensity: very great or extreme in strength or degree.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.