

WATERCOLOUR PRINTS

1. Using a sheet of art paper aligned landscape ways, split it into three equal sections across and four equal sections down. This splits the page into twelve boxes.
2. Choose two (or maybe four) contrasting watercolours to paint alternate boxes. Suggest to pupils to paint all of the one colour first – this allows these boxes to dry before trying to paint an adjoining box.
3. The watercolours will probably dry fairly quickly – if they don't, you could leave the next step until the following day.
4. Using poster paints, print a repeating pattern onto the watercolour background. Pupils can decide if they want to print in every box and what objects to choose to print the patterns. In the example below, I used a small sponge for the rectangle prints and my little finger for the spots. However, you can allow pupils to experiment with objects for the printing. I would suggest to them, however, that less is more when printing a pattern – you still want to see the watercolour background. Bear in mind also that there should be a pattern to the printing – it should be a regular repeated pattern.
5. Allow the paintings to dry overnight. Displaying them all together creates something that almost looks like a patchwork quilt.

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Variations

- These could be done as seasonal art work – for example, at Hallowe'en the background colours could be orange and black and the prints could be Hallowe'en icons like a crescent moon, cats, bats, pumpkins etc.
- At Christmas, the background colours could be red and green and seasonal icons could be used for the prints.

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If using two colours:

1	2	1	2
2	1	2	1
1	2	1	2

If using four colours:

1	2	3	4
4	1	2	3
3	4	1	2

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Kind regards, Seomra Ranga

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