

## Painting Birch Trees Lesson Plan

### Materials:

scrap paper to try out paint on brush (Before going to good paper)  
Paper towel and Kleenex  
Water colour Paint palette  
Large brush for washes and small brush for details  
Water in a cup  
Pencil and eraser  
(Watercolour brush have soft bristles, do not use for acrylic)  
Watercolour paper



### Tips:

Start light, build up to your darkest tones  
If you make a mistake blot quickly with paper towel or Kleenex  
If still there, sometimes you can wet your clean brush and gently lift Colour with Kleenex

1. Start by drawing a very light pencil line half way across the landscape paper
2. Draw about 7 trees lightly with pencil. Make sure to draw some in middle ground and one in the foreground.
3. Paint light yellow glaze between the trees above the pencil line. Take care not to paint on top of the tree shapes
4. Let paint dry, and practice on a separate scrap piece of paper creating skeleton trees  
When dry draw an uneven line with light pencil for yellow shrub guideline
5. Paint light grey skeleton trees in the background behind the shrub guide. You can paint overlapping trees, and different tones or values of grey trees, from light to medium grey.  
\*tip grey in watercolour is made by adding more water to your black, **NOT** by adding white, however if students are struggling you can let them mix a grey
6. When skeleton trees are dry, paint yellow in-between the trees in front of the skeleton trees, and when yellow bushes are dry, paint a light grey over the skeleton trees, but not over the birch trees.
7. Paint birch trees with light grey, start with a thin line of light grey to outline large birch, then slightly thicker grey line on the left side of each of the birch trees  
Add with lightest grey first, the “Eye” shapes on the birch and the rough horizontal lines on the trees
8. Accentuate textures with darker greys Add some branches  
Create a light grey shadow below each tree on the left side,
9. Add a yellow bit by each tree
10. Add some medium and darker grey black tall grasses by base of trees.

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