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## How to Rainbow · Watercolor Tips Guide

*Inspired by the colors of the rainbow, this kit will teach you fun tips and techniques to help develop your creative confidence. Follow along and learn how to create beautiful paintings, using these unique watercolor pencils.*

### Your set includes:

5 Watercolor EcoPencils  
Watercolor paper pad  
Pencil sharpener  
Paintbrush



Wear old clothing and cover your work surface. Keep your sleeves rolled up while painting and clean up any paint or water spills immediately with your paper towels.

You will need a small cup of water and paper towels. To try some of the other techniques, you will need crayons, tape, regular colored pencils, and a permanent ink pen.

## Watercolor Pencils - features and benefits

If you like to draw *and* paint, then watercolor pencils are made for you!

- Pencils allow more control than regular watercolor paints.
- It is easy to mix colors and add details.
- The pencils are less messy and never dry out.
- The pencils are portable and take up very little space; perfect for creating art wherever and whenever you wish!

**Important:** Never plunge the pencil directly into the water. This will cause the wood to swell, weakening your pencil and lead. You can touch the *very tip* of a sharpened pencil with a wet brush before applying it to the paper. This is a good way to get more detail and to layer colors.

To keep your brush clean while painting, always rinse it thoroughly between colors. Use your paper towels to wipe off excess color and to control the amount of wetness on the brush. Change your water cup frequently as needed.

**Basic technique** – begin by coloring an area with your watercolor pencil. Using a clean wet brush, stroke over your pencil marks. The water will *magically* turn the pencil into paint.

Keep the pencils sharpened. Use the pointed tip for outlining and details and the side of the lead for covering large areas with color



For more control, grip the pencil close to the tip. This is good for applying intense color.

## Watercolor Pad

The type of paper used when painting will have a big impact on your final art. Run your fingers over the paper pad. You will notice it has a semi-bumpy surface with “hills and valleys” and a less bumpy side. When you apply color, the pigment will be lighter on the hills. As it pools in the valleys, the pigment collects and becomes darker. Try using both sides to see which you like better.



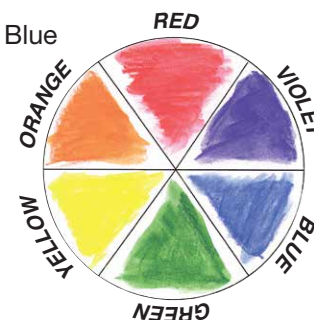
## Paint Brush

The tip of the brush can be used to achieve fine, controlled details and strokes. Apply more pressure to fan out the brush tip. Pull it across the paper to create broad strokes.



## Color Mixing

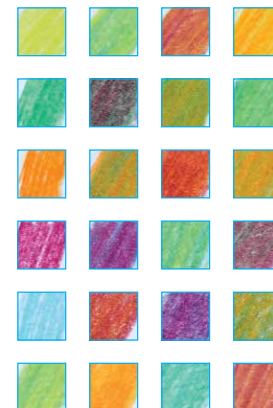
This color wheel includes 3 Primary colors: Red, Yellow, Blue and 3 Secondary colors: Orange, Green and Violet



What happens when you mix the primary colors?  
Red + Yellow = Orange  
Blue + Red = Violet  
Blue + Yellow = Green

Your pencil set includes a mix of primary and secondary colors, as well as an additional color - magenta. Using these colors, you will be able to make a rainbow of even more colors!

The best way to discover all the colors you can make is by creating a color chart. To do this, divide a page into small squares. Fill the squares while overlapping two or three different colors. Keep track of which colors you use in each square. That way you can re-create the colors you like. Experiment by layering colors, then brushing them with water to blend.





## How to Rainbow!

Now it's time to make rainbows!

Most often the colors in a rainbow follow the “**ROY G BIV**” spectrum, which stands for **Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, and Violet**.

You can make your rainbows using any colors you would like.

## Here are some techniques to try:

1. **Line and Wash** - Draw a rainbow using heavy pencil strokes, leaving empty areas between each line. With the tip of a wet brush, pull the brush along each color. The tip should touch the line, while the rest of the brush drags beneath.



2. **Pulling Color** - Draw one half of a rainbow using heavy pencil strokes, leaving empty areas between each line. Using a wet brush, pull the color from the rainbow-side to the empty side, one color at a time.



3. **Wet and Dry** - Create a wash of color on your paper by coloring with the side of the pencil. Brush over it with water. Wait for the paper to dry. Now draw over this with watercolor pencils, adding details and layers of color. You can leave the lines as is, or brush over them with water. This technique is a way to harmonize and unify the painting with a background color.



4. **Wet on Wet** - Wet a section of the paper using a clean paint brush and water. Draw into the wet paper with a watercolor pencil. Notice how the pencil marks bleed to create interesting effects. You can also use this technique over a painting that has several colors already on the paper. While some areas are wet, go back in with the pencils and mark over them to create more variety in the strokes.



5. **Erase with Water** - If an area becomes too intense with color, go over it with a clean wet brush to “pick up” the extra color. Dab it loosely with a clean paper towel to lighten the color.



**MIXED MEDIA** – for this technique you will need crayons and painters or craft tape.

It's fun to experiment using the watercolor pencils with other mediums. “Mediums” are other materials and tools used to create art.

To create an image that is similar to the one on the front of the watercolor pad, you will do a **resist** technique. Try drawing with a wax-based crayon or by placing craft tape on your paper. Carefully color over the drawing or tape, with the watercolor pencils. Brush with water. The waxy lines and tape will resist the watercolor and remain visible. Wait for the paper to dry, then remove the tape.



Draw an object or scene using a permanent ink pen. Allow the ink to dry, then add washes of color over the ink. You can also combine the different techniques you have learned. If you use a permanent ink pen, the lines will remain visible through the paint. Allow the paint to dry then add additional details with the ink pen or your pencils.



Combine regular color pencil with watercolor pencils in one drawing. After you brush it with water, you will notice that the “regular” color pencil lines and strokes remain under the watercolor washes and don't blend.



Once your paintings have dried, your paper may curl. If this happens, place your paintings under a heavy object to flatten them out.

**Now that you have tried watercolor pencils, experiment and continue to discover your own unique style.**



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