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## Watercolor face painting

This site is not available in your country Butterflies, cats, dogs, fairies, ghosts, witches, wizards ... kids of all ages love having their faces painted. Here are a few tips to help. Tip 1: Value Your PaintsProfessional face paint and stage makeup can be expensive, particularly if you're painting a whole kids party's worth of faces. Don't leave them around where people can get hold of them and try them out for themselves. Try out different types of paint to see which you find the best for working with, such as paint in tubes or paint in stick form. Make sure you're following the safety tips for face painting. Tip 2: Sponge, Don't BrushIf you're wanting to cover a large area or put on a base color, use a sponge to apply the paint rather than a brush, it'll be quicker. Having a different sponge for different colors eliminates the necessity of washing out the sponge during a painting session (the same applies to brushes). Tip 3: Be Patient and Think ThinLet the first color dry before applying a second. If you don't, they'll mix and you'll probably have to wipe it off and start again. Also, rather than applying one thick layer of paint, which may crack, apply a thin layer, let it dry, then apply another. Tip 4: Visualize the Finished FaceKnow what you're going to paint before you start, don't make it up as you go along. Kids aren't known for their patience and won't be able to sit still why you ponder what to do next. Have a basic face design fixed in your mind; you can always add special touches to this once you're finished. Tip 5: Special EffectsThe paint you're using will work as a basic glue. To create bumpy noses or big eyebrows, soak a bit of cotton wool in the paint, place on face, cover with a piece of tissue and paint. Puffed rice or wheat make ideal warts, simply cover with a bit of tissue and paint. For an extra-ghostly effect, apply a light dusting of flour once you've finished painting the face (be sure to get your subject to close their eyes tightly). Tip 6: Use StencilsIf you're not confident painting freehand or are short on time, why not use a face painting stencil? Stars, hearts, flowers will all stencil onto a cheek. Have stencils in a few sizes to hand, to allow for small and larger faces. Tip 7: Temporary TattoosEven faster than stencils are temporary tattoos. But some people's skin reacts badly to them and they take longer to remove. Glitter is also great for a quick, dramatic effect, but it gets everywhere and is very hard to get rid of! Tip 8: Getting a DecisionIf you've got a row of kids lined up to have their faces painted, ask the next kid in line what they'd like a few minutes before you've finished the face you're currently painting. This way they have a little time to try to decide and you don't lose painting time. You may suggest a few faces, to try to limit the choice to ones you're confident painting. Consider creating a chart of designs for kids to choose from; it makes it much easier for the kids to make up their minds. Include simple things such as hearts or balloons, as many kids love these. Tip 9: Mirror, Mirror on the Wall, Who's the Most Beautiful of All?Remember to take a mirror so the person whose face you've just painted can see the result. Also, bring a high stool for kids to sit on; not having to bend over for so long will save you from a backache. Tip 10: Stock Up on TissuesYou'll probably use more tissues or wipes than you think for wiping your hands, brushes, etc. Face painting can be messy, but it's fun! Baby wipes work fast and easy for 'mistakes'; you can also be assured they are safe to use on faces. Watercolor is a medium known for its transparency and fluidity. There are three kinds of watercolor paint - tube, pan, and liquid. The following are some of the characteristics common to all watercolors. Like all paints, watercolors come in student grade and professional grade quality. The professional grade has a higher concentration of pigment and better permanence ratings. Student grade paints use more fillers and may use cheaper pigments, making them more affordable, but not as satisfactory in terms of color, intensity, and permanence. Lightfastness, or permanence, refers to whether the pigment can withstand exposure to light and humidity without fading or altering in color. This is graded as excellent (I) to fugitive (V), under the rating system of the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) and is denoted on the paint tube label. Fugitive, a rating of V, indicates that the color will bleach very quickly. Here are directions to perform your own lightfastness test. It is wise to use only those pigments with a rating of I or II in order to avoid any fading or discoloration. Watercolor paint is identified as transparent, semi-transparent, semi-opaque, or opaque. The semi-transparent and semi-opaque watercolors may also be called translucent. Transparent watercolor means that light is able to shine through the paint onto the white surface and reflect back to the eye, creating colors that seem to glow. It is the white of the paper glowing through the transparent paint that gives watercolor its luminosity. Opaque color blocks the light, preventing it from being reflected off the paper, resulting in colors that are somewhat duller in appearance. You can test the transparency and opacity of your paints by drawing a black line, using a sharpie or black acrylic paint, across which you paint the colors you want to test. Transparency/opacity is determined by how much black the paint hides. If it hides none, then it is transparent, if it hides much of the line, then it is considered opaque. Keep in mind, though, that the beauty of watercolor is that it is generally a transparent medium, so it is difficult to achieve complete opacity with watercolor paints alone. You may also test the transparency of your colors by creating a grid of overlaying colors. Water is the solvent that is mixed with watercolor paint to make it the right fluidity and concentration, whatever the type of watercolor paint being used. How much water you mix with the paint will determine how intense the color is as well as affect its transparency. Different hues can be created by mixing colors on the palette. Once the paint has dried, the water evaporates, leaving a color that is a little lighter than when wet. Watercolor is reactivated when wet, unlike acrylic paint that has a plastic polymer binder, so can be reworked at any time after drying as long as it hasn't been sealed with a varnish. This will render it waterproof and protect it from environmental factors such as light, humidity, and dust, but will also make it unworkable. Until then, you can add color to a color that has dried in order to strengthen it or create another hue by mixing it with another color. Watercolor is a great medium for many subjects and purposes. Experiment with some watercolors on your own to learn some of their properties and characteristics. If you come to watercolor painting from oils or acrylics, you may find yourself wondering where the tube (or pan) of white paint is. The answer is: In watercolor there isn't one. The white in watercolor painting is the paper. You "make" white by having the paint thin so the white of the paper shows through. Be aware that you will want to take the color of your paper into account when planning your painting and carefully think through where your white will be in the final design. Out in the real world, white is not really pure white but can be a warm white that reflects yellows or a cool white that contains more blue. (And one trip to the hardware store with the thought of painting a room "just white" will present you with more color choices than you could ever imagine for such a seemingly straightforward task!) To determine if you should paint something warm or cool, look at the object in diffused daylight to see what colors reflect in it. If the light is too bright, it will create sharp shadows and "blown out" areas; you need to see a range of tones. Please note that even "daylight" bulbs that purport to be balanced can still cast a yellow hue on your subject. Any white in a surface will be affected by the light glowing on it, such as showing a warm yellow cast from an incandescent bulb, and any shadows falling on it. Shadows will be brought out in a painting with purple, blue, and gray or even light brown. There is a necessity if you have a white object against a white background or want to paint definition in white fabric, for example. What remains after the color is applied around the white area shows the white off through contrast and makes the remaining white turn into the highlight of the area. You can create a gradient that includes the white paper through placing subtle washes (very diluted) next to the white area and progressing a little darker a bit at a time to have "shades" of white without having any white paint in the mix. To "save" an area and keep it white so other colors don't bleed into it while you're painting, you can use the wax relief technique where a tiny bit wax from a white candle or white crayon drawn on the area will keep the spot the white and won't be visible in the final product. If you're not a purist, not one of those who believe that only transparent water-based paints qualify as "watercolor," then get yourself a tube of white gouache, also known as opaque watercolor. Some artists also use white acrylic, but remember, as soon as acrylic paint has dried, you can't lift it off again, unlike watercolor paints and gouache, which remain water soluble. Don't use gouache to mix your colors, though, as it'll only muddy your tints. Lighten your colors through washes. Use opaque white as a final highlight or to achieve an effect that would be difficult to do in any other way.Please note that if you're submitting a painting to a watercolor competition, you will want to check whether the rules allow for white paint. Some do, and some don't. This watercolor painting tutorial shows you three ways to paint reflection in water. We've used the same picture for all three approaches so you can easily compare results. The aim is to learn different ways of painting water so that you can either vary the way you approach it or just choose the method you like best. We've picked a picture of a windmill as the subject for this exercise because this is just that bit more interesting than a normal house, and there is the added complication of the sails with their angles to get right! To complete the exercise you'll need the following: A sheet of watercolor paper Pencil (for drawing the windmill, or tracing it) Watercolor paints Watercolor brush Water for rinsing your brush Clean cloth or tissue for wiping your brush Let's get started! Trace this outline of a windmill. Using a pencil, lightly draw an outline of a windmill (as shown above) onto your sheet of watercolor paper. Draw it three times in a row—because you're going to paint three different styles of reflections—then under the left-hand windmill only draw a reflection of the windmill. Alternatively, print out and trace the outline of the windmills from this art worksheet or, if your computer printer has waterproof ink, print it on a sheet of watercolor paper. Now let's select some colors... Paint the windmill the colors indicated. Paint the windmills using the colors as shown, or select your own. Don't worry about doing anything fancy, this is just an exercise to show how things work. Each area is just filled in with a flat wash. The colors we've used are: Sky: cerulean blue Foreground: cadmium yellow and cerulean blue Bushes: cadmium yellow and ultramarine Windmill sails: raw sienna Windmill building: burnt sienna Windmill door, windows, and top: burnt sienna and ultramarine Now let's paint the first style of reflection... Paint the first reflected windmill and leave it to dry. Using the same colors as you did for the windmill, paint the first reflected windmill—but not the sky around it. Leave it to dry completely before painting the water. Paint the water across the reflected windmill. Now you've got the first reflected windmill painted and it has dried, it is just a simple matter of painting the water surface. This is done by laying down a cerulean blue wash over the entire water area, going right over the reflected windmill itself as well are the reflected foreground and bushes. This dulls the reflected windmill colors and makes them look as if they are in the water—just what you want to achieve. Create a broken or rippled reflection in the water using short brush strokes. Using your same colors as before, but this time creating small horizontal strokes, paint in the reflection of the windmill and then the water. You may want to mark a few pencil dots where various parts of the windmill will be in the reflection, to just as guides. Don't bend your wrist as you paint these lines, or they will end up as curves rather than straight lines. Instead, hold the brush firmly and swing your whole hand gently from your elbow. Painting a wet-in-wet reflection. This technique is the least predictable but produces a very realistic result. We are going to work wet in wet, laying down the blue water first and then dropping in the windmill. Have your paper lying flat for this technique. Lay down a wash of cerulean blue over the whole water area, and then wait for a little until this begins to dry. If you go in too soon with other colors they will spread to far and fade to nothing, and if you go in too late the paint may cause cauliflowers and back runs to form, or just not blend at all. Our advice is to test it out by dropping in tiny amounts of 'windmill' paint and see what happens. If it spreads out just a bit, then that's the right time to drop in the rest of the picture. Just touch in the windmill and allow the wet-in-wet effect to do the rest. Risky, but effective! The three techniques for painting reflections in water. Now you've finished the third technique for painting reflections in water, you've got a sheet you can refer to whenever you want to paint a reflection. Pin it up on a noticeboard, or file it in your creativity journal. About the Artist: Andy Walker has taught watercolor painting for a number of years, and over this time has tried out many different ways of teaching. Andy has found that the one method which seems to work the best is the step-by-step approach, and has compiled a watercolor course based on step-by-steps. This tutorial on painting reflections in water is one from his course and reprinted with permission. Photo Courtesy: eclipse\_images/E+/Getty Images From the cabinets in your kitchen to a piece of furniture to a fun craft, there are plenty of wood items you can paint. And one of the best things about wood is that it accepts a variety of paints well, whether you opt for something that's acrylic or an oil-based formula. Painting wood is an easy way to change its look and give it some new personality, but it's not always clear what paint to use for different projects and applications. Here's what you need to know about the right paint to use for wood. First, it's essential to figure out the nature of your project, meaning you'll need to determine not only what you're painting but also where it's located or going to be used. Are you painting shingles on the exterior of your home? Or are you painting an outdoor deck that'll see a lot of foot traffic? How about kitchen cabinets that people will touch often, or a bathroom shelf that'll be exposed to high humidity from the shower? Knowing things like whether or not it's going to get wet, how often someone's going to use it or touch it and what overall effect or look you want to achieve are all essential for determining what paint you should use for the project. Wood accepts a very wide range of paints and stains, but each of those can have differing levels of durability and protection. Some paints are better than others in certain situations, and you'll need to know your particular situation before you make your choice. The great thing about wood is that, as long as you apply primer to it in most cases, any type of paint works well on it, depending on what function you need your project to serve. Generally speaking, paints to use on wood are water-based or oil-based. Acrylic and latex are the two most common types of water-based paints, while oil-based paints fall into two categories: synthetic or natural. Each of these is better than others for specific applications. Latex paint is quick-drying, easy to clean and better for the environment than other types. It's also less likely to discolor over time. However, it's not the most durable choice, as it can scratch and chip easily. It's best for indoor wood items or surfaces that you won't touch or use very often, such as rarely used furniture, storage cabinet doors, stair spindles and picture frames. Latex paint is often the most affordable type. Acrylic paint is ideal for home exteriors, although you can also use oil-based paint here. If the exterior is made up of different materials, such as stone and wood, you're better off choosing acrylic. Materials like stone and masonry need breathable paint to allow moisture and water vapor to pass through, and oil-based paint prevents this. Acrylic craft paints are also widely available and easy to use and clean up if you're doing a simple DIY craft project using wood. Synthetic oil paint, which is also called alkyd, is the best choice for applications where you need a lot more durability. Think everyday furniture that'll get used and jostled often, kitchen and bathroom cabinets, interior trims like baseboards and door frames that'll get kicked and touched often, and flooring indoors and out. Oil-based paints are more rigid than flexible, water-based types so they're less likely to chip — even when people are walking on them — and they're also easier to wash clean because of this. Natural oil paint, called linseed, is best for craft projects on which you want to create a warm, aged patina. It's typically much more expensive than the synthetic variety, which is why it's best for smaller projects. To help the paint adhere well and to ensure the finish looks its best when everything is dry, it's important to prep your wood to get it ready. If you're painting an exterior surface or item, give everything a thorough wash to make sure there isn't any dirt, dust, moss or algae, all of which can keep the paint from sticking to the surface. If you're painting wood deck furniture, a table or something else for the outdoors that people will touch frequently, it's a wise idea to sand it before painting to give the paint something smooth to adhere to. Splinters and cracks can also keep the finished product from looking its best, and they're uncomfortable to sit on. Let the surface or or item dry out fully before applying the paint, and give it a few days to dry and start curing before you use it. It's best to do outdoor wood-painting projects while the weather is nice. If you're repainting an interior surface or furniture such as kitchen cabinetry or a dresser, take a look at the existing paint or finish. If the item's current paint isn't chipped, cracked or bubbling, you can usually paint right over it; just sand the wood areas briefly to give the surface more texture for the paint to stick to. If you don't need to remove cabinet paint, it's still a good idea to clean the doors with a heavy-duty solution like TSP to eliminate all traces of grease and grime. If you do need to remove a little bit of paint, such as a few chipped areas, you can sand them down. However, you may need to use paint stripper for items with paint that's very damaged. This is a product that softens the old paint so you can scrape and wipe it all off. A word of caution here: If your cabinets or other painted home surfaces were last done in the 1970s or earlier, they may contain lead-based paint. If you use a testing kit and determine there's lead in your paint, call the National Lead Information Center or your local health department to find out how to proceed.

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