



LESSON 14 LEVEL C SNOW SCENES

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

drybrush technique with tempera paint

WHAT YOU WILL NEED: gray or light blue construction paper 15.5 x 45.5 cm (6" x 18") or 23 x 45.5 cm (9" x 18"); brown and black crayons; white tempera paint; low container; paper towels; 5 mm (1/4") stiff bristle brush

TIPS: Look at a real snowy landscape and/or paintings or photographs of snow scenes. To do the dry brush technique: dip the brush into the paint. Wipe some of the paint off the brush on a paper towel. Then lightly stroke the almost-dry brush onto selected parts of the painting. . .the surfaces that would catch the falling snow.

NO SNOW? You know that it snows in winter. The weather gets gradually colder and you begin to look for the first snow. You can almost feel it coming. The sky is gray day after day. The weather gets colder and colder. Then, one day, the weather seems just a little bit

FALL INTO WINTER



Photograph by Kay Alexander

GETTING STARTED: Decide on the subject for your painting: a country landscape; a suburban scene; or a busy city park or street. You may work from memories of such places or use photographs to remind you. Think about the colors of a dreary day in late autumn, before the first snowfall. What colors would you see on leafless trees, old buildings, roads or streets?

1. Put about 15 ml (1 tablespoon) of white tempera into a low container near some paper towels at your work place.
2. With only the dullest colors of your crayons (black, tan, gray, brown) draw the scene of your choice on the gray or pale blue paper. Make the roads, trees, fences and buildings against a faraway horizon (where the land meets the sky)



warmer. The first snowflakes drift down. They don't "stick" to the ground at first; they melt. As there are more and more of them, you try to catch them on your tongue. Or you catch a few on your coat sleeve to look at the star-shaped crystals. More and more snow falls until the ground gets covered; then, more. Sometimes the first snow isn't very deep. Other times, it may be as deep as your knees. A really big storm may leave snow as deep as your hips. It's exciting, that first snow of the season!



dry brush technique

CLEAN UP: Don't forget to put everything away. Throw out leftover paint and used newspapers. Leave your work area neater than you found it. (That rule, often found at camping sites, is true for other activities as well.)

of hills or a city skyline.

3. Go back over the important parts, pressing firmly to make strong, waxy lines and shapes. Give your picture the feeling of a dark, dismal, gloomy day, but make it interesting to look at.

4. Now, "think snow." Imagine the first gentle snowfall of the season. The snow would settle on the roof tops and rest on the upper surfaces of tree branches. Drybrush (see "Tips" above) the white tempera onto your picture. Work slowly and carefully to avoid heavy splotches. Cover the ground with slightly more "snow." Perhaps, with a very, very dry brush, you can make snow falling from the sky.



Rudi Age 12

TALK ABOUT IT: Does your picture give the feeling of a snowy day, changing the late autumn landscape to a winter scene? Did you use too much paint with your drybrush technique, too little, or just the right amount? How would you do another drybrush painting differently?

MORE IDEAS: If you use 15.5 x 45.5 cm (6" x 18") paper, begin and end your horizon lines exactly 5 cm (2 inches) from the top of the page and you can connect your painting with other paintings with the same starting and ending horizons to make a long panel, a strip mural or wall painting. A mural might show the first snowfall in three different settings...country, suburbs, and city.

CONNECTIONS: Read poetry about snowy weather, such as Robert Frost's "Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening" and "London Snow" by Robert Bridges.

