

Shaving Cream Marbled Starry Nights

Grade Level: 2nd

Supplies:

VanGogh resources (**videos**, prints, **books**, etc.), white paper 10" X 16" (I like to mount them to 12" X 18" paper when finished), shaving cream, liquid watercolor in warm & cool colors, scraper, large tray for marbling (I have use 4 at one time- 4 students marbling), pencil, stamps (swirls & stars), metallic tempera for stamping, black paper 6" X 16" for silhouettes, scissors, silver Sharpie, glue, colored paper for mounting

ENCOUNTER

Step 1:

Discuss Vincent VanGogh and his art work, especially *The Starry Night*. A great resource to use is Google Art Project where you can zoom in on the actual painting.

<http://www.googleartproject.com/museums/moma>

A great book to read to the students is [The First Starry Night](#) by Joan Shaddox Isom

Step 2:

Discuss warm and cool colors.

I have my students play a sorting game where they separate colored rectangles in to warm (like fire) and cool (like water) piles. This could be done on an interactive whiteboard also. They will choose either a warm or cool color scheme for their skies.

Step 3:

Marbling

- Squirt the shaving cream in to the tray, making sure it is large enough to cover the white paper.
- Spread out the shaving cream using the large scraper. It's like frosting a cake!
- Students will choose either warm or cool liquid watercolors for their skies. Students drip the watercolor on to the shaving cream, making sure not to puddle the colors. I have found that the bottles don't generally need to be squeezed, but merely held over the tray and slightly shaken.

- I have students use a hair pick to marble their colors. I have tried several tools, including actual marbling combs, and the picks work the best. Have the students hold the pick between their fingers very lightly- almost to the point of having it fall out of their hand.
- Making sure to "float" the pick on top of the shaving cream, students comb the colors back and forth. I remind the students that they are NOT plowing a field!
- Making sure to "float" the pick on top of the shaving cream, students comb the colors up and down.
- Making sure to "float" the pick on top of the shaving cream, students make swirls.
- Have the students write their names on the back of their white papers BEFORE doing this step. Place the white paper face down on to the shaving cream and rub until the paper is coated.
- Peel back the paper slowly. (If any spots were missed, lay the paper back down and rub again.) At this point, it will look like a big blob of nothing. The magic happens during the next step!
- Use the large scraper to remove the excess shaving cream. We scoop it right back in to the tray to be used again. The kids love the reveal!
- Spread the shaving cream back out for the next student to use. You can reuse the cream until it gets too runny.

Step 4: Stamping

Use star and swirl rubber stamps dipped in metallic paint to add to the starry night feel of the painting. Print these in the sky area. Paper can either be horizontally or vertically oriented.

Step 5: Making the Silhouette

- Hand out a black paper to each student and have them place it in front of them horizontally. Then, they draw a horizon line about half way up. All of their landscape items will sit on this line

- Have students draw houses, trees, mountains, or any land form they choose. Details aren't needed, but may help students in their drawing. They will not show in the final design.
- Either the student or the teacher can do this step. Using a silver Sharpie, outline only the TOP EDGE of the landscape. This will give the students a clear line to follow when cutting.
- Students cut out their landscape silhouettes, following the silver line.
- The silhouettes are glued on, lining up the bottom edges. Make sure that students put glue on the side with the silver lines so that the silhouette will be perfectly black in the final design.

**Step 6:
Display**

- Mount the projects on to colored backgrounds and display.
- I also hang up an information sheet next to the projects so that the viewers can learn about the process.

Tip: I have four students do the marbling while the others work on their silhouettes.

Link to lesson with step-by-step photos: <http://mrpicassosartroom.blogspot.com/2011/04/shaving-cream-marbled-starry-nights.html>

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