



Here is an excellent project to help a beginner learn to paint. If you start with black and white pictures you can focus on learning to use the tools and techniques.



You can use most kinds of black waterproof ink, watercolor, or tempera paint. You will also need a #1 hair brush, a #6 hair brush, and a fan brush. If you don't have a fan brush you can substitute a half-inch flat bristle brush like we did in the Asian water bird landscape. You will also need tape, water, and 8 and 1/2 by 11-inch poster or watercolor paper, a scrap piece of paper and a three-sectioned picnic plate.



Use your #6 paint brush to add thirty (30) brush loads of water to one of the sections of your plate.



Add a tiny amount of black paint or ink to the water and stir it in. You only want slightly dirty water. It will look darker in the water than it does on the paper.



Test it on the scrap paper and make adjustments by adding more water or ink until you have a very light gray.



Using your #6 brush paint a crooked line across the top of your paper and fill in above the crooked line quickly.



Then make a long triangle using a crooked line and fill that in.



Next mix more water with the gray and make a long smoother line across the page. The white places you have left are the clouds and the gray is the sky showing through.



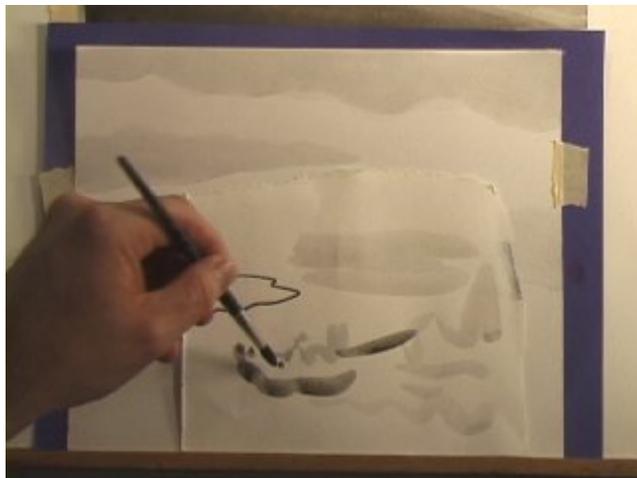
Now let the sky dry and use some tape to keep the paper from curling up.



The next part of the picture we are going to make is the close hill.



The close hill is much darker so you will need to add a bit more ink.



Test your darker value on the scrap paper.



Starting on the left side of the page paint a quick line from a fourth of the way from the bottom of the page almost all the way across to the right lower corner of the page. Then fill the lower part of the page with as few brush strokes as you can.



Now put thirty brush loads of water in another section of the plate and add enough ink or paint to darken it so it is lighter than the close hill. Far away things are lighter most of the time. Let the first hill dry thoroughly before you start the second hill.



Test it on the scrap page.



This hill can start a little higher than the first and slightly curve past the center of the closer hill. Fill it in quickly so you don't leave excessive brush marks showing.



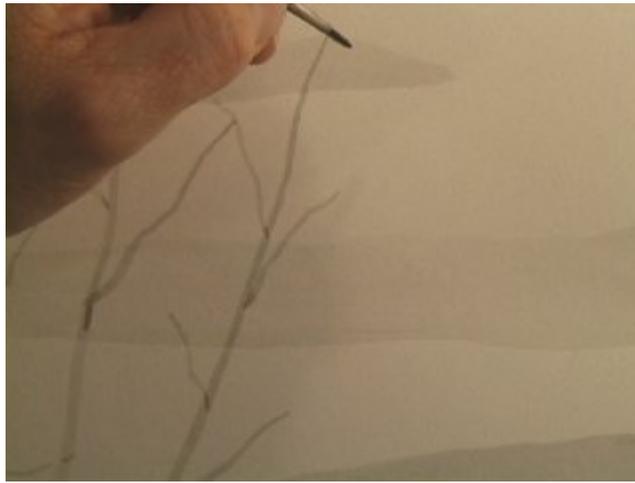
Now to make the tree trunks we use the same dark value we used to make the first hill. Use your #1 brush to practice the press and drag stroke on your practice page. Wipe your brush well, lay your wrist on the page and start with the tip barely touching the paper. Mash the brush down gradually as you drag it.



Start a fourth of the way from the top of the page and press and drag your way down to the middle of the hill. Overlap the tree trunk on to the hill.



Make three this time.



Now make shorter press and drag stroke at run into the tree as branches. Only do about five or six per tree and let the shorter one be at the top.



Now using the same brush and the same dark gray paint over the right side of each of the tree trunks to add some shadow. The light will be coming from the left in our picture.



Again use the tiny brush and same gray to add tiny flicking not thicker than the ones from which they grow. branches. Only eight or so per tree. Remember that branches are



Using your practice paper and the fan brush practice making patches of leaves. They should be generally oval in shape and done with a wet brush.



Practice them in a group keep turning your brush so it doesn't create a repeated pattern and let the groups of leaves overlap slightly. Keep them separate enough to tell one branch from the other.



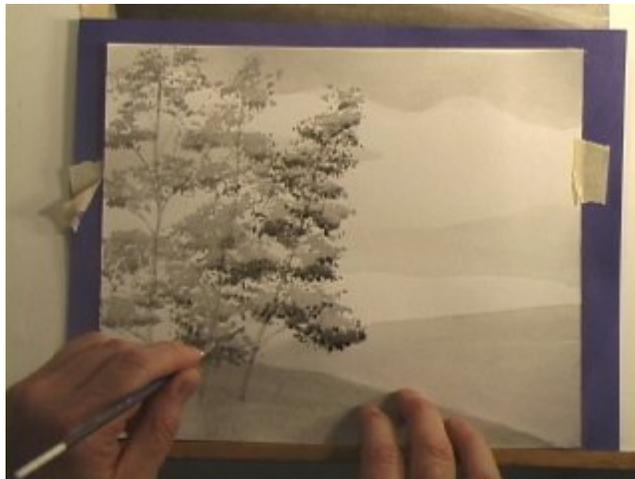
Make larger bows of leaves at the bottom of the tree and smaller at the top.



You will have to use the side of your brush to make the tops of the trees. Move the tape if you have to. Let your leaves run off the



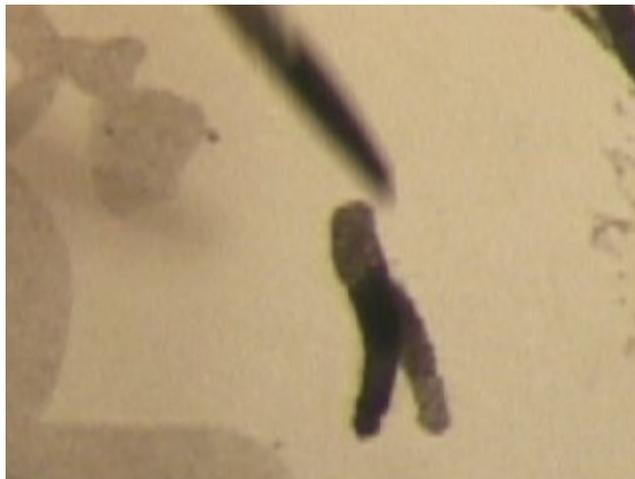
Next add a touch more black to your dark gray to make the shadows on the bows.



Again you do not want a repeated pattern. Let the shadows have as much variety as the bows of leaves but keep the general



Now lets add the little people in the distance. Paint a little carrot shape about the height of your little fingernail on your practice page.



Then paint another point on the carrot that extends to the middle of the carrot.



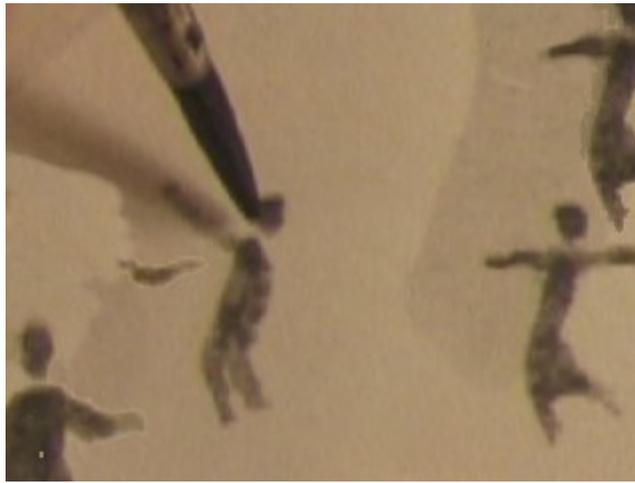
Next paint a tiny oval that is not attached to the carrot. The neck is not usually visible from such a great distance.



This arm can be indicated by a mark along one side of the body. Remember that your arm reaches to the middle of your thighbone.



Finally the last arm can be pointing at something.



Practice a few people and wide "M" shaped birds till you get comfortable.



Now make your finger nail sized carrot and then a second leg. I'll make this into a woman with a dress. Add the arms and head. Here I'm adding a child and some tiny birds flying away from them.



Now sign and date your painting. Paint it again or go on to another lesson.