



Here is a great project to start learning to paint color landscapes. Once you learn the techniques you can start copying nature and masterworks and that is the last step toward becoming talented in art. Scroll down



You will need a #6 or #7 round hair brush, a #1 or #2 round hair brush, a fan brush, a set of watercolors, some scrap paper, and some watercolor paper.



If you don't have watercolor paper you can use posterboard and if you don't have a fan brush you can mash a 1/2 or 3/4-inch flat bristle and hold it with your finger to paint the leaves. I demonstrated this brush technique in the Chinese Waterbird Lesson.



Put some water in the blue paint and move a touch of it into one of the sections of the tray or you can use a sectioned picnic plate.



Test the blue to make sure it is very pale and mostly water.



Use the pale blue to paint a random line across the sky and quickly fill the area above the line before it dries leaving an outline.



Like that.



Dip your brush in water before you dip it in the blue again so it will be even lighter and paint a wiggly sideways "V" shape in the middle of the page and quickly fill it in.



Also remember that if you have taped your paper down that you don't want to let it interfere with your painting. Move it to the white cloud portion of the sky.



Now we need to mix three greens dark, medium and light. So begin by putting two patches of green in two sections of your tray or picnic plate.



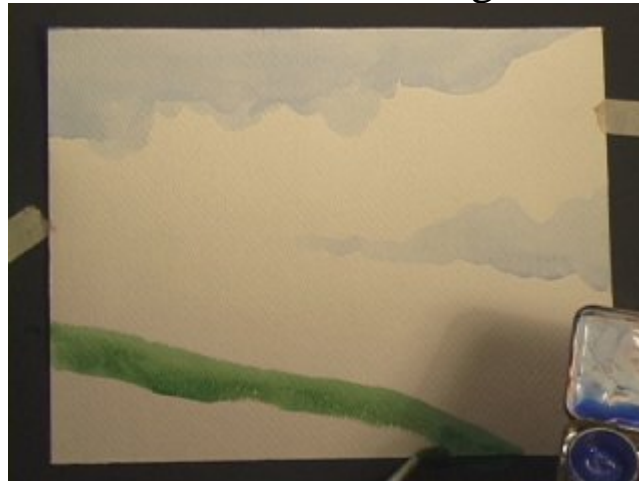
Put yellow in one of the remaining trays and with the middle green.



Add a touch of red to tone the dark green and make it more brown and natural.



Stir and test the dark green.



Use your larger hair brush to paint a quick line from the bottom right to 1/4 from the bottom of the page and quickly fill below the line using as few brush strokes as you can.



Yes!



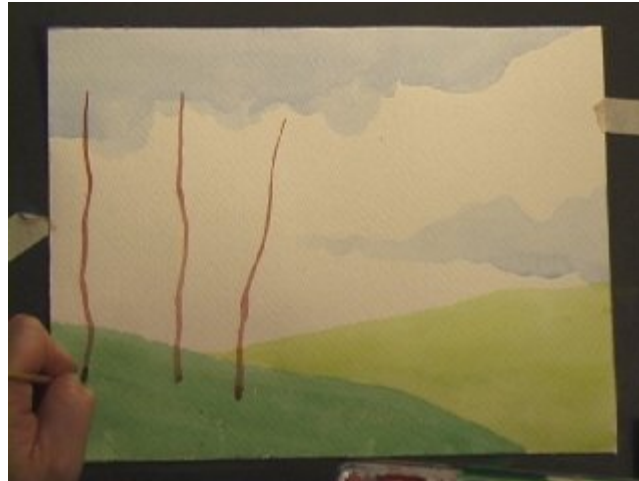
Put a touch of green in with the yellow and more water then test it on your scrap of paper.



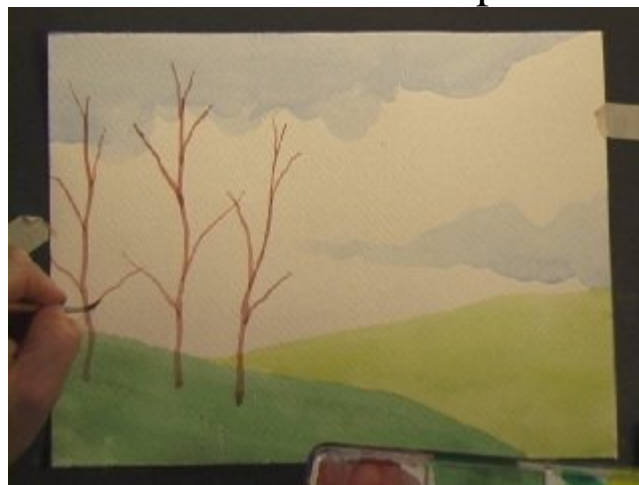
After the dark green hill has completely dried use the pale green to paint a curved line almost to the halfway point of the page and quickly but carefully fill in the distant hill.



Now add more blue to the part of the tray you used for the sky and enough orange to tone the blue to brown. Test it on the paper



When the hills and sky have completely dried use the press and drag stroke to make slightly crooked lines starting about 1/4 of the page from the top. Make them different heights from the bottom and the top.



Add three or four press and drag branches to the trees that are longer at the bottom of the trees and shorter at the top.



Use a very light touch to make about six or seven tiny twigs on each tree with a quick flicking motion.



Stir the middle green and dip your fan brush into it. Then test your leaf patches on the scrap paper.



Make your patches of leaves in rough oval shapes that overlap each other in random patterns.

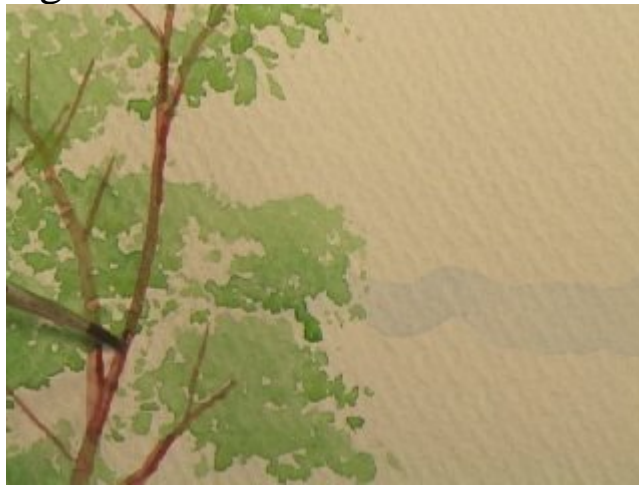


Yes! Make sure to run off the edge of the page naturally. Trees don't stop growing just because they reach the edge of the page.

He he.



After the trees have dried use the tiny brush and brown to add shadow to the right side of the branches that are still exposed.



Like this.



You can also add some subtle roots to the base of the trees.



Go back to the dark green again with the fan brush and test it on your scrap paper to make sure it is slightly darker than the middle green that you used on your leaves.



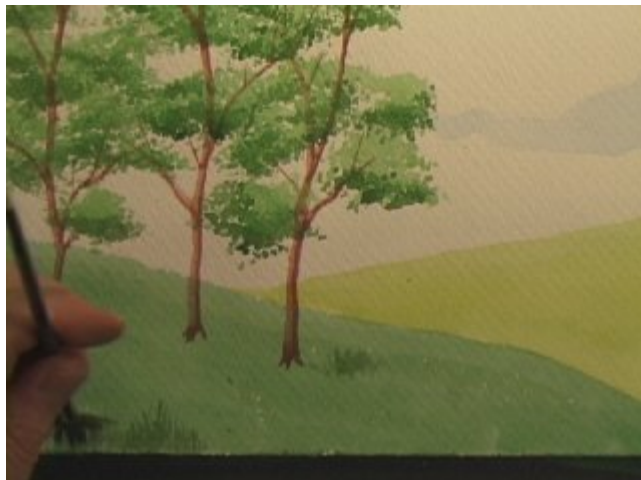
Add the darker value to the bottom of each patch of leaves.
Make the shadows in a random pattern too.



Here is a closer look.



Cool so far.



Use the same shadow green and wipe off your brush real well and make three or four patches of grass by flicking your dry brush upward. Make shorter grass on the sides and longer grass in the middle of each patch.



Grass at the bottom of the hill should be taller than the grass at the top of the hill.



Add more yellow to your light green to make the highlights on the trees.



Use the fan brush and the yellow green to make random patches on top of each of the patches of leaves.



Sign and date your latest painting. Practice a few of these with the trees, hills and sky in different patterns and you will be ready to copy nature and the masters.