

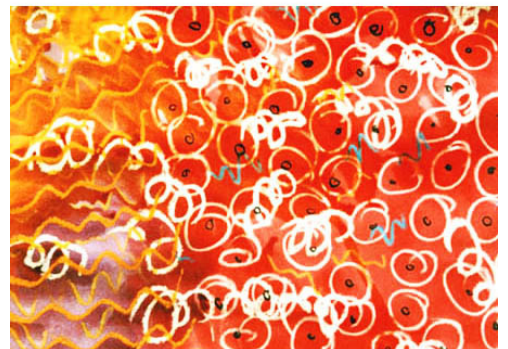
Safety Note:

Not suitable for children under 5yrs.

Colourful Wax Resist Painting

This is a creative science project which offers a wonderful way to explore colour and pattern using water based inks and brilliant wax crayons.

Wax and water are incompatible, so when you paint a colour wash over a wax drawing the paint reacts by filling in all the blank spaces around the design.



Wax resist painting projects are great for festival workshop events as children can be highly creative with minimal materials. Make your own colourful paper sheets, then cut them up to make headdresses, masks, and banners of all kinds.

Patterns and Designs

Resist painting has traditionally been used in many different cultures around the world - great inspiration for creating your own colourful patterns and designs.

Have a look at traditional Batik textiles from Indonesia, Tapa Bark Cloth textiles from the Pacific islands, and African Yoruba cloth designs.

It's also good to have pictures of patterns in nature: animals, fish, insects, shells, corals, flowers and leaves etc.

Colours

You can use any watercolour paints and wax crayons, but for larger projects such as banners, headdresses, and masks you need paints which will cover large sheets of paper, and for this Brusho powder colour inks by ColourCraft are the most suitable with brilliant, transparently clear colours, and are very cost effective.

The wax crayons need to be chubby so they don't break with vigorous handling, but more importantly they need to be rich in colour - the cheapest crayons are often very disappointing.

Stockmar Beeswax crayons, or the more expensive Caran D'Ache crayons are the best.



thinking by making

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www.thinkingbymaking.org.uk
more project details at making-ideas.blog

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ColourCraft
'Brusho' watercolour ink



you will need:

chubby paint brushes
jam jars with lids
water pots
white cartridge paper (A3)
plastic table cloths
newspaper
kitchen roll
plastic aprons/old clothes
hair dryer (optional)

'Stockmar' beeswax crayons
(for good strong colours)



mixing the inks

Prepare the liquid ink in advance

- Children should only use these colours once they have been dissolved in water - the highly concentrated pigments need to be handled with care as it is very easy for the colour to drift onto surfaces and furniture nearby. They are washable, but can stain clothes.
- These colours are very intense so only a tiny amount is needed. The ink keeps for a very long time in glass jars with lids.
- The colours are not permanent - they will gradually fade in daylight.
- You can intermix the powders to create new colours, so you only really need six basic colours to start with: red, orange, yellow, blue, green and purple. But you can buy a set of 12 colours and this gives you a lovely wider range - several greens, turquoises, cerise reds and pinks as well as black and brown. It is worth getting this set as the colours will be more brilliant than if you try to mix them yourself.

Follow this simple mixing method

- A useful quantity to mix is 100ml of water (about a third of a jam jar) for each colour.
- Rather than shaking the powder into the water, dip the tip of a damp brush in the powder and stir it into the jar of water. Repeat this until you get an intense coloured ink - about four times. Check the colour intensity on a sheet of white paper and leave it to dry. Some colours need more pigment than others.
- Set out each colour jar with its own paint brush on a covered table, with water pots for rinsing brushes, and kitchen roll to dab up any spills or splashes.

two colour stages

Test pieces

It would be good to start with some small examples. Try some effects on small squares or strips of paper to see how the inks are rejected by the waxy crayon marks, and how they flow around and in between the wax drawing, filling in all the blank spaces.

Step1: Wax crayon design

- Draw patterns and marks all over the paper using the wax crayons. Try stripes, zig-zags, criss-cross lines, square blocks, dots, dashes, spirals, squiggles, swirls, waves and curves.
- It's important not to fill the sheet in completely with colour at this stage, remembering that the white areas will become coloured with the ink.
- A wax candle can be used to draw over different parts of your design. This is invisible, but 'magically' reappears when painted.

Step2: Resist painting with ink

- Paint over the wax crayon patterns with coloured inks. Don't follow the design, but try sweeps of brush strokes in different colours, stripes, or swirly, wavy shapes. Large blocks of colour forming squares or circles can also be effective over repeat patterns of lines, zigzags, or dots.
- Wet colours will run into each other, so if you want defined edges between two colours, leave the first to dry before applying next one - you can work on different parts of the pattern at the same time, avoiding touching the wet areas.
- Blending the colours creates lovely diffuse effects when the colours run into each other. Use kitchen paper to blot out large wet blobs of ink.
- Avoid splattering and flicking the brushes!