

Monet's Watercolor Lilies

Petals bloom into 3-D as if fresh from the flower gardens at Giverny!

French Impressionist painter Claude Monet's Water Lilies are featured in more than 250 of his oil paintings. These works depict the flower garden at his home in Giverny, and were the main focus of his artistic production during the last 30 years of his life. Many of his water lilies were painted while Monet suffered from cataracts, perhaps influencing his later painting style that was more abstract from earlier works.

Create a classroom "Giverny Garden" by arranging watercolor paper petals into overlapping layers and applying liquid watercolors using a variety of techniques. As in nature, no two flowers will bloom alike!

GRADES 3-12 Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.

Preparation

1. Observe Monet's Water Lilies, discovering use of color and texture.
2. Cut a portion of the watercolor paper into eight sections to make 7-1/2" x 11" pieces. Each student will need five pieces of this size to form the flower.

Cut the remaining portion into six sections to make 10" x 11" pieces. Each student will need one piece of this size to form the leaf of the lily pad.

3. Cut a 4" diameter circular base out of heavy white paper. Each student will need one.

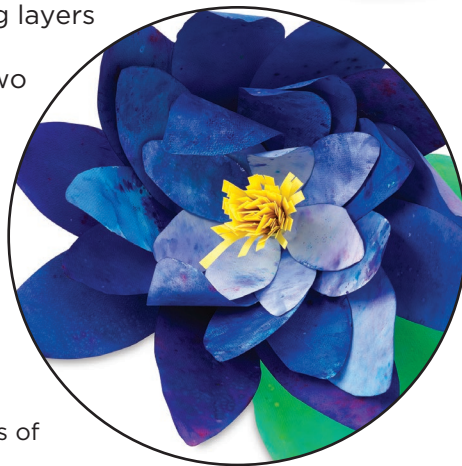
Process

1. Lily petals can be any size, but, as a guide, a template is provided on page 3. Cut 11 large, 11 medium, and 8 small petals from watercolor paper. An easy method for reproducing petals is to cut one and use it as a template to trace the remaining petals. Stack the paper and cut 3-4 petals at a time to save cutting time.
2. Choose 1-2 base paint colors and apply Blick Liquid Watercolors using a large brush to cover broad areas. Experiment with watercolor application by spraying, dripping, and mopping watercolors onto the flower. Explore watercolor techniques such as:

- Wet into wet
- Wet on dry
- Dry on wet
- Gradiated wash
- Variegated wash
- Dry brush

Sprinkle Brusho Crystal Colors onto the petals and spray with water to add dramatic watercolor effects. Allow to dry.

3. Use a 7 1/2" x 11" piece of watercolor paper to create a "stamen" for the center of the water lily. Fold the paper in half (long) and paint with a contrasting color. Allow to dry.



Materials (required)

Blick Liquid Watercolors, 237 ml, assorted colors (00369-); share 6-8 colors across class

Blick Student Watercolor Paper, 22" x 30", 90 lb, (10028-1022); plan for three sheets per student

Blick Hake Brushes, assorted sizes (05403-); need one brush per student

Armada Lollypop Scissors, (57057-1007-); one pair per student

Canson Color Line Art Paper, White, 19" x 25" sheet 92 lb (11273-1062); need one sheet

Aleene's Clear Gel Tacky Glue, 4 oz (23884-1204); share one between two students

Blick Studio Drawing Pencils, HB (22220-2110); one per student

Holbein Watercolor Atomizer Bottle, 2 oz (02912-1003); share one between two students

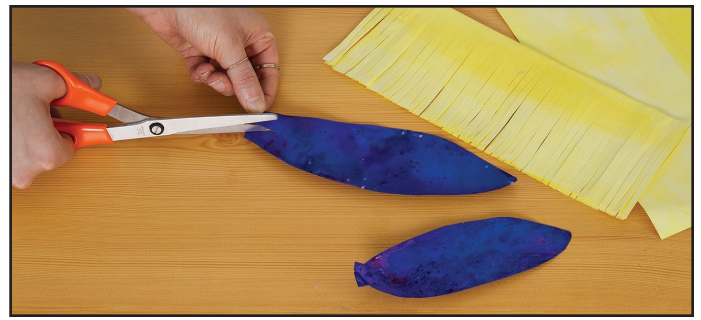
Optional Materials

Brusho Crystal Colors, 15 grams, assorted colors (01762-)





Step 1: Cut petals, lily pad and stamen from watercolor paper and paint.



Step 2: Make a cut at the base of each petal. Overlap the cut tabs and glue. Cut "fringe" into stamen.



Step 3: Glue petals to base in size order, starting with the largest petals



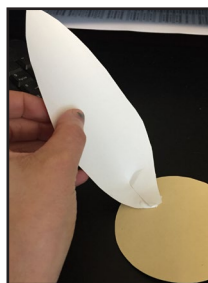
Step 4: Roll and glue stamen to the middle of the flower. Glue lily base to lily pad.

Process, continued

4. With scissors, make a 1-2" cut in the base and center of each petal. Take the two tabs created by the cut, overlap them, and glue them together to make a curved petal shape; see (A). The tabs can be held together with a paper clip until dry. Glue the tabs of all the petals before proceeding.
5. To attach the petals to the base, start with the largest petals and place a small amount of glue on the back side of the tabbed areas (the side that curves inward will face up). Position each large petal on the outer edge of the circle so that it curves up and away from the base (B). Glue the remaining large petals around the outer edge of the base.
6. Inside the ring of large petals, create a ring using all of the medium petals, then a ring of the small petals. Leave a 1-2" diameter opening in the center of the petal rings for a "stamen."
7. To assemble the stamen, hold the paper on the folded side and cut in from the edge, stopping approximately 3/4" from the fold. "Fringe" it by creating similar cuts at equal intervals down the folded edge. Roll the paper tightly (like a cinnamon roll) and glue the ends together. Apply glue to the folded edge and place it in the center of the lily.
8. Curl petals gently around finger or a marker towards the inside of the flower for a natural look.

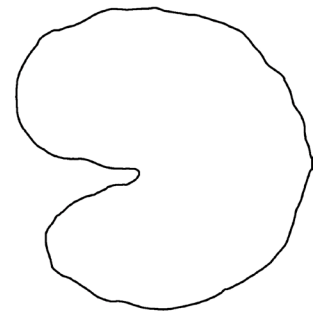


(A)



(B)

9. Create lily pads by drawing the basic shape onto watercolor paper; see (C). Cut out and paint using green and blue liquid watercolors. Waterlilies can be glued to the lily pads for final presentation.



(C)

Options

- Create a 3-D Water Lilies painting by arranging all of the flowers and lily pads made by the entire class.

National Core Arts Standards Visual Arts

Creating

Anchor Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Connecting

Anchor Standard 11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.



Cut out four copies
of this template
to make one
lily.

(there will be one extra
small petal)

Large Petal Template

Small
Petal
Template

Small
Petal
Template

Medium
Petal Template

Medium
Petal Template

Small
Petal
Template

Large Petal Template

