



Watercolor Tissue Papers

This project is designed for all ages, but young children will need assistance from an adult.



Dye your own paper to use for collage, card making and wrapping paper. Experiment as a group or individually with this colorful indoor or outdoor activity.

Materials Used in the Studio

- White coffee filters or Color Diffusing Paper
- Liquid water colors or food coloring
- Washable markers
- Sponges
- Smock
- Spray bottles
- Pipettes
- Water
- Cups for mixing colors



Start by setting up a place to work. If it's sunny out see if there is a place outside. Cover a table with a vinyl table cloth or work directly on the grass or pavement.

Draw on your paper using washable markers or use liquid water colors and a brush.

Spray the paper with water and watch the colors bleed and darken.



Splatter the paper with old toothbrushes or combs dipped in paint.

Dab the watercolors on with sponges or different sized brushes. Use pipettes or spray bottles to squirt or dribble the paint.

Mix Red, Yellow, and Blue watercolors and watch new colors bleed together on the paper. What other colors can you make by mixing combinations of these three primary colors together?



Explore

Combine your dry papers with store-bought colored tissue papers and create a tissue paper collage.

Make your own tissue paper collage paste at home with our easy recipe: carlemuseum.org/resources/activities Click on "Homemade Liquid Starch Glue"

What more can you make?

Use scissors to cut your paper into smaller shapes and glue to the front of homemade gift cards or create your designs on large sheets of paper to use for wrapping gifts.

Create a paper sculpture by crumpling and gluing your papers together or wrapping them around a cardboard base and securing with wire or pipe cleaners.

Experiment dying scraps of light-colored fabric, white paper towels, tissue paper or thin drawing paper. Invite friends over to help decorate a custom mural on an old bed sheet or large sheet of butcher paper.

What other materials around the house can be used to change the color of paper or fabric? Try rubbing fresh leaves, berries, grass, coffee grounds or dripping wet tea bags and food coloring onto the surface. To create custom permanent designs on fabric use colorful fabric dyes instead. Note: Be sure to follow all fabric dye directions on the package and work with adult supervision.