

# Water Painting

## Best for Ages

1+

## Workspace

Flat surface outside

## Is electricity required?

No

## Description

You don't need paint to paint- just use water! Paint river rocks or other dark surfaces with water to create artwork and watch as the water evaporates. This is an easy activity to do outside, where kids can paint anything with water.

## Materials

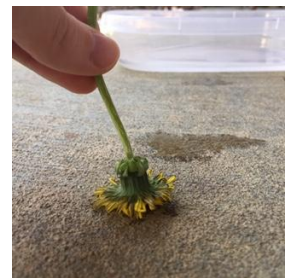
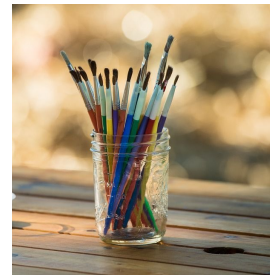
- Painting materials: paint brushes, cotton swabs, fingers, yarn, leaves, etc.
- Dark surface: deck, driveway, river rocks/slate; dark rocks, patio, bricks
- Cup or bowl for water
- Water
- Towel

## Concepts Explored

- Fine Motor Skills
- Evaporation
- States of Matter

## What to Do

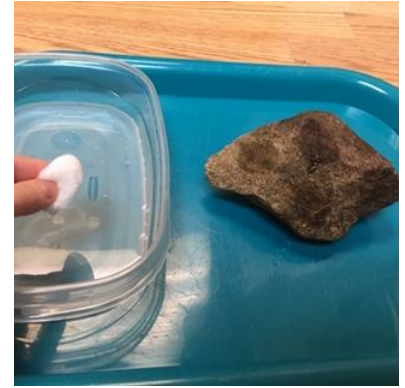
1. Pour some water into a cup or bowl.
2. Find a spot outside or inside that you can get a little wet.
3. Lay out painting materials and predict what type of marks they will make. What will make thick lines? What will make shapes?
4. Test out your predictions. Dip your painting tool in water and start water painting!
5. What designs can you make by combining your painting materials? Can you use any of your materials in different ways? What happens to your painting after it is in the sun for a few minutes?
6. Hint: You can use a towel to dry off surfaces to paint again!



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## Troubleshooting Tips

- Want to try this on a rainy day? Use trays to keep your water from escaping your work space.
- Is your child more interested in dumping out the water? Turn it into a splashing experiment!
- Don't have any paint brushes? Try using toys that can be submerged in water or find leaves and other natural materials to use as paint brushes.



What happens when the water sits on the rocks for awhile?

Where does the water go when your material dries?

What other surfaces could we paint with water?

## What is Happening?

- Your child is practicing **fine motor skills**, or coordination of their small muscles. Flexing and working these muscles can help in holding a pencil and using scissors.
- When the water starts to disappear, it's evaporating. **Evaporation** is the process of a liquid turning into a gas. When liquid water is heated up by the sun, the water molecules move and vibrate so quickly they become the gas form of water called water vapor.
- When the water turns from a liquid to a vapor, it's changing its **state of matter** or the form it exists in. Liquid water can also be a solid. When does that happen?

## Taking it Forward

- **Connecting this activity to the real world:**

Fill up a cup with water and observe it with your child over the next week. What happens?

- **If you like this activity, you'll also like** [Cup Racing](#) and [Salt Drawing](#).
- **Want to know more about painting?**

Learn More about this activity at your local library:

*Auntie Luce's Talking Paintings* by Francie Latour

*Let's Paint!* by Gabriel Alborozo