



SONORAN SUNSET

Grades 1 & 2

Time: 60-75 minute session

Materials: heavy white paper
watercolor paints
paint brushes
scissors
glue

Please consult our
Detailed Art Instructions
for complete details and
recommendations on
artwork creation.

black construction paper (cut into thirds, horizontally)
illustrations of saguaro cactus

Objective: Demonstrates the colors in the rainbow and techniques in mixing colors. Promotes fine motor skills through the use of scissors and detailed paper tearing.

Procedure:

- 1) Begin by having students paint a sunset, starting with blue and ending with yellow. This is a good way to reinforce the primary and secondary colors (blue and red make purple, red and yellow make orange, etc...).
- 2) While the watercolors are drying, have the students take their black construction paper and tear the “top” of a piece so that the paper resembles a mountain with a lot of rocks, hills and valleys. Make sure the paper is torn and not cut.
- 3) The students should then glue the torn construction paper onto the bottom of the watercolor sunset. Make sure they use the yellow portion of the sunset as the bottom. This will give a beautiful sunset effect.
- 4) When the students are satisfied with the placement of their “mountains”, have them cut out a saguaro cactus with arms. You can post illustrations of the saguaro cactus, initiate a discussion of cactus and demonstrate how to cut one out. Glue firmly into place.

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