Pearl at Home

Art projects designed for suggested ages of 5 and up, designed to be completed at home with easily-accessible art materials.

ANIMAL PAINT RESIST

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ANIMAL PAINT RESIST

MATERIALS

- **Paper:** Heavier paper that will hold up to water, like watercolor paper, mixed media paper, or cardstock
- **Crayons, oil pastels, or a wax candle**
- **Glue or glue stick**  ·  **Scissors**
- **Paint:** Watercolor or thinned tempera paint (see directions for tips)
- **Brushes** wide is best  ·  **Water container**
- **Optional:** Printer or magazine images

ABOUT THE PROJECT

In this project we’ll use a technique called “resist” – where one medium will cover parts of the paper and not allow the other medium to make contact with the paper. This technique relies on the concept and familiar saying that “oil and water don’t mix.”

Wax resist techniques have been used for centuries in several art genre like ceramics, watercolor painting, and fabric design (such as batik). There is real science behind the method! Organic materials like oil, or wax, mix with other organic materials. Water is not organic so it does not mix with the oil – it will “resist” mixing. The paint will skip over the areas covered by crayon, wax, or oil pastel, and only cover the areas without it.

Use your imagination to create an animal of your own creation, using a little art “magic.” How many heads will your animal have? How many tails? Will you combine eyes or ears from another creature too?

L: Detail of wax on ceramic by Chandra DeBuse
C: Example of wax resisting watercolor
R: Vintage batik fabric pattern
1 **Place the animal’s head**
Place an image of an animal’s head on your paper. You can either:
- Print one of the animal faces included at the end of the packet
- Cut out an animal face from a magazine
- Draw your own using crayons or oil pastels
If using a printout or magazine cutout, glue those pieces onto the paper where you think the head of your animal should be. You can also include other features from the animal. Let the glue dry completely before moving on to the next step.

2 **Add features**
Use the crayons or oil pastels to create any combination of features like fins, wings, legs, tails, eyes, etc. to finish your animal. You can add scenery around your animal to help tell a story. You can also use a wax candle to block out areas.

**TIP:** Bright or light colors work really well for this part of the project. The colors will “pop” against the darker background color you’ll add later.

Color the parts you added to get lots of crayon onto the paper. You can even color the pre-printed face from our pages, but color it so you can still see the printing through the crayon.
3 Paint your background

For this next step, it's important to TEST your paint on a scrap piece of paper before painting over your animal. Use crayons or oil pastel to draw something on the scrap paper, then test how your paint will go over your lines.

Prepare your paint according to the notes below:

**Tempera paint:** Add water to dilute regular liquid tempera, until you can see the crayon/oil pastel areas of your test paper through it.

**Liquid watercolor:** Use with minor amounts of water. If it’s sticky, add more water. It may take a while to dry.

**Pan or tube watercolor:** Almost the opposite of the other 2 paints – make a strong, saturated paint by using only enough water to make the paint work while letting the crayon/oil pastel show through.

Select a dark color to paint over the ENTIRE paper. You do not have to go around the crayon or oil pastel; paint over those areas too! The paint should either bead up or not collect over the waxy areas. Once you have your paint on the paper, let everything dry.

**TIPS:**
- Darker/deeper paint colors look better because they contrast well with the crayons and oil pastels.

- Sometimes the crayon or oil pastel will look better if you dab up a bit of any paint that may sit on top of the paper, especially if you are using tempera.
ANIMAL FACES

Aardvark - Africa & Asia

Oranda Fish - China

Wolverine - Europe, Asia, North America

Shoebill - Africa