

## Nature Wonder Painting

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**SUMMARY:** Start your morning with colour, wonder, and quiet contemplation. In this session, you'll learn a great on-the-go activity that can be used to create an opportunity for wonder and reflection at almost any time of day.

**GOALS:**

- Participants will know how to plan an art activity that can be done outside at any time
- Participants will understand that intentional moments for calm and quiet connection with nature can be powerful experiences for campers

**AUDIENCE:** This program can work well for almost any age camper or staff. You can modify the amount of time you spend observing and creating art to align with participants' interest and attention span.

**TIMING:** 45 Minutes

**MATERIALS:**

- Watercolour paper
- Watercolour paints (plastic pallets, or watercolour pencils work well)
- Black crayons
- Paint brushes
- Container with water
- Empty 35mm film slide mounts ([link](#))

**SET-UP:**

This program is meant to be done out in nature, so all the materials need to be able to be packed up and used in a variety of outdoor locations. If you want to use watercolors, it is ideal to go to a location near water. If you can't be near water, campers can either bring water bottles, or you can bring materials like pencils, crayons, or markers that don't require water.

## SESSION TIMELINE

- *00:00-00:05 – Introductions and instructions for framing wonder*
- *00:05-00:30 – Co-creating artwork*
- *00:30-00:45 – Gallery walk / reflection*

## SESSION OUTLINE

### **00:00-00:05 – Introductions and instructions**

Session leader introduces the idea that participants are going to be actively seeking wonder and will create artwork with a partner to try to capture the essential elements of wonder.

Explain that each participant receives a small blank slide carriage or small cardstock viewfinder and a few sheets of nice quality paper.

Participants are divided into pairs, and each pair is given a black crayon or oil pastel and a kit of watercolours. As a pair, participants will find a location in nature where both partners agree that they can see some kind of wonder. Each participant uses the small frame to decide on the composition of their image.

For 5 minutes, one person will use the crayon to draw only the shapes and outlines that they see in their chosen scene, and the other person uses the watercolours to only paint the colour of the forms in their composition.

After the 5 minutes, participants trade papers but keep their same roles. The same person who drew outlines on their own page, now adds outlines to the other person's colours.

If time permits another 2 rounds, participants can choose new scenes and trade roles.

### **00:05-00:30 – Co-creating the artwork**

Participants use the steps outlined above to create artwork

### **00:30-00:45 – Gallery Walk and reflection**

Participants gather and put their artwork all together like a gallery. Once they have had some time to admire everyone's work, ask the following questions to reflect on the experience:

- What were the things that sparked wonder for you?
- How do you recognize wonder when you see it?
- What did it feel like to give the artwork you started to someone else?
- How did it feel to be responsible for working on art that your partner started?
- Whose artwork belongs to who?

## BRINGING IT TO YOUR CAMP

This session was designed for partner work, but it could be modified for small groups of up to five or could be modified to be done individually. Partner work can help keep campers on track and help them feel accountable to their partner, but it also has the potential to be frustrating.