



Kick the Cowboy

Writing and Art Project

Writing and art go hand-in-hand. (Just like reading and writing.) In this project you are going to make a watercolor wash of a desert scene and then use your art work to write a descriptive paragraph.

Materials:

Watercolor paper
Brushes
Set of watercolors
Pencil
Permanent marker
Masking Tape

Word List:

Hot
Sand
Dry
Lizards

Tape the watercolor paper to your desk or to an art board. The first thing to do is sketch some Saguaro cactuses on your paper. Draw a line to separate the land and sky and place your cactuses in different places on the land. Next, using clean water, paint your paper so it is slightly wet. Leaving some areas dry can produce some very interesting looks. Once your paper is wet use “deserty” colors to paint over your land letting some colors mix together. Be careful not to do too much mixing or you’ll end up with a washed-out scene. After that is dry, you can paint your sky area. This could be a sunset or just a blue sky. Be careful not to paint over your cactuses. Next, paint your cactuses. Once everything is dry, trace over your cactuses and the line that divides the land and sky with the permanent marker. Add other details if you want at this time. If you want, you can add Kick riding his stickhorse.

For the writing part of this project, you are going to brainstorm as many words that come to mind when you think of a desert. Use your classmates and teacher to help with the word list. (I’ve added a few words to the list to get you started. These words will help you write a descriptive paragraph from your watercolor painting. Also you can have your teacher read the book Cactus Hotel. It will give you some good ideas about a desert. Remember to start your paragraph off with a good topic sentence. From there, use your word list to write the rest of the paragraph. After completing the rough draft, edit and revise to make your paragraph better very descriptive. Good writing only comes from good practice. I rarely write something really good the first time. Good luck and have fun!