



Working in Black & White

Develop awareness of tonal values through use of a very restricted colour palette.

Materials

A4 size sugar paper in black, white or grey.
 Ready mixed paint in black and white.
 White or pale chalk.
 Paint brushes in a range of sizes.
 Clean water in pots.
 Mixing palette or scrap card.
 Images of artists' work (optional).

Method

- First practise making a wide range of tones by mixing small quantities of black paint into white paint. Aim for the most different shades of grey and ask children to verify each other's. This generates speaking and listening as well as confidence for the main task.
- Look at a local landscape, use existing sketches or look at the work of a landscape artist as a starting point for children's own work. Winter scenes could be a focal point.
- Use the white chalk to lightly sketch the composition onto the sugar paper.
- Start painting with the white paint and leave to dry.
- Gradually build up layers of paint using tones of grey from lightest to darkest. Use different sized brushes to add detail where required.
- When the final layer is dry, add the darkest tones in black paint.



Taking it Further

Try using a range of found objects to print trees onto a winter landscape. The edge of stiff card is particularly effective for bare branches. Look at black and white landscape photographs and compare them – can children tell what the weather is like without the colour?

Monochrome

Monochromatic colours are all the tints and shades of a single colour. Look at the Blue and Rose periods in Picasso's paintings to help the children develop their recognition of tonal value.