**WORKSHEET- Basic Watercolor Painting Techniques Worksheet**  
**Teacher Guided Activity**

**Wash:** A wash is a very thin coat of paint, the paper underneath is transparent. Washes are good for flat, light areas like sky or a large body of water. Washes are created using the "wet-on-dry or wet-on-wet" techniques.

**Wet-on-Dry Technique:**  
1. Wet-on-dry means you work with a **wet brush on dry paper**.  
2. Load a flat brush with a color & paint in the square using overlapping strokes.

**Wet-on-Wet Technique:**  
1. Wet-on-Wet means you are painting with a **wet brush on wet paper**.  
2. With clean water, paint in the box or area you want to paint with a flat brush. Let soak in so there is no more shine on the paper.  
3. Load your brush with a color & paint in the square using overlapping strokes.

**Drop Color Wet in Wet**  
Dropping Color means exactly that, you are dropping very wet paint onto a wet surface. You are painting with a wet brush on wet paper, but dropping paint instead of using brush strokes.  
1. With clean water, paint in the box (can also be done with color). Let the water soak in so there is no more shine on the paper.  
2. Load your brush so that it is dripping with a color & drop the paint in the square. The color will bleed into the paper.

**Dry Brush**  
Dry brush means you apply somewhat wet paint onto a dry surface. This is a broken effect and useful for shimmering effects on water, dappled foliage, or texture on rocks.  
1. Load some paint on brush, then dry most of it off onto a paper towel.  
2. Apply brush strokes on a dry surface (the texture of the watercolor paper will help the texture to show).

**Hard Edge:**  
Hard Edge is painting wet paint right next to dry color to achieve a clean, sharp edge.  
1. Load some paint on brush, then paint an area or a shape. Let dry completely.  
2. Then paint right next to (not overlapping) the area or shape you just painted. Make sure to have a limited amount of water on your brush. Too much water will be uncontrollable & run back into the painted areas.
**Soft Edge:** (Bleeding)
Soft Edge is painting wet paint right next to wet color to achieve a bleeding of the colors. The result is a fuzzy (out of focus), blended edge.

1. Load some paint on brush and paint an area.
2. While the painted area is still wet, paint another color slightly overlapping the first area.
3. The paint will "bleed" together. The wetter the paint, the more it will bleed.

**Value Scale**
Value refers to the lightness or darkness of a color. A value scale is a chart that shows the gradual transition of a color from light to dark. In watercolors, colors are made lighter by adding more water to the pigment.

1. Begin with the lightest value. Load your brush with a small amount of paint & mix it with a lot of water- so the color is very light. Paint in the first box.
2. Add some more paint to the mixture, making the color slightly darker. Paint in the next box.
3. Repeat the process until you have your darkest value in the last box.
4. When finished, you should see a progression of the values getting darker in each box.

**Graded Wash:** (Wet on Dry or Wet on Wet)
Graded wash or gradation is creating a value scale that blends completely together.

1. There are two methods of achieving a graded wash:
   a. Preparing a Value Scale of Colors before Painting:
      i. Load your brush with dark paint. Starting at the top of the box, gently pull a straight line of paint across the box.
      ii. Dab your brush on a paper towel and refill your brush with the lighter mixture (added water). Start your second stroke overlapping the bottom of the previous stroke. The stroke will begin to flow together.
      iii. Rinse your brush and blot it on a towel or damp sponge, refill from the lighter mixture. Make your next overlapping stroke.
      iv. Rinse clean and dip your wet brush into the lighter mixture, further lightening the wash. Lay your next overlapping stroke. **TIP:** If your stroke doesn't flow evenly or breaks up, charge your brush and repeat the stroke IMMEDIATELY.
      v. Rinse your brush well and using clear water start your last overlapping stroke. Squeeze the water out of your brush and pick up the bead of paint at the bottom of the wash.
   b. Adding Water to a Loaded Brush
      i. Load your brush with dark paint. Starting at the top of the box, gently pull a straight line of paint across the box.
      ii. Drip your brush in water & swirl once, then lightly dab brush on a paper towel.
      iii. Start your second stroke overlapping the bottom of the previous stroke.
      iv. Repeat this method until there is almost no paint left on the brush.
Blend 2 Colors
1. Load your brush with the first color of paint. Starting at the top of the box, gently pull a couple of straight lines of paint across the box.
2. On your palette mix a little of your second color in with the first. Paint back & forth slightly overlapping the first strokes. Make sure to leave a little of the first color unmixed. The stroke will begin to flow together.
3. Mix a little more of the second color into the first color and paint strokes overlapping the bottom of the previous stroke. The stroke will begin to flow together.
4. Continue this process until you are almost at the end of the box.
5. Rinse your brush out completely and paint a couple of strokes of the pure second color.

Practice painting a sphere form to look 3D.
1. Beginning with highlight, paint a small circle of pure water.
2. On your palette, mix water with a small amount of pigment. Paint slightly overlapping the water circle. Go around it a couple of strokes to blend the edges together.
3. On your palette, mix water with a more pigment. Paint slightly overlapping the previous strokes. Go around it a couple of strokes to blend the edges together.
4. Continue this process until you get to the darkest shadow, then lighten the pigment slightly for a reflective shadow near the bottom.
5. To paint the cast shadow, paint it darkest near sphere then lighten as it gets further away.

Materials Needed: worksheet printed worksheet cardstock or watercolor paper, watercolors paints and brushes, water cups, palettes
Basic Watercolor Painting Techniques

Name __________________________ Date ____________________ Class ________________

Wet on Dry  Wet on Wet  Drop Color Wet in Wet

Dry Brush  Hard Edge  Soft Edge

Value Scale

Lightest Value  Darkest Value

Graded Wash (1 color Gradation)  Blend 2 Colors  Paint the Sphere to look 3D