

# Marble Painting



When painting, artists use lines, colors, shapes, textures, and values to create their work. There are many different tools that artists use to create. Let's explore using marbles to create our own works of art!

## Materials:

- Trays with rims or shoe boxes with flat bottom surfaces
- Marbles, assorted sizes
- Liquid washable paint, assorted colors
- Thick stock paper - watercolor paper works well
- Plastic pipettes
- Portion cups to hold paint

## Preparation:

- Cover table with table cloth or paper to protect surfaces from spills.
- Portion liquid paint into cups. You may choose to slightly dilute paint in order to make it flow more easily on the paper and conserve resources.
- Place one pipette into each portioned cup of paint.

## Try This:

1. Place a piece of paper into the tray or shoe box.
2. Drip paint onto the paper. Choose 2-3 colors to start. You can always add more later. Consider what your colors will look like when mixed together.
3. Place one or more marbles into the box/tray. Tilt the box/tray from side to side and forward to backward to move the marbles through the paint, spreading the color and creating lines.
4. Observe what happens when the marble moves slowly or more quickly. Observe how the colors might mix to create new colors. Observe what happens when you use more than one marble.
5. If you choose, add more paint to your paper and continue your art!
6. Once complete, remove marble(s) and paper. Set aside to dry.

## Want to Know More?

Artists can use many different mediums and tools to create their artwork. A medium is a material or technique used to create art. Some artists use paint, pencils, charcoal, clay, metal, chalk, fabric, pens, and paper as their mediums. Others mix different kinds of mediums together in one piece of art. The medium of paint and marbles work to create art because a marble's shape helps it to roll easily around your paper. Scientists can study how forces (pushes and pulls) move objects on or around Earth. In this activity, you can apply a force to the marble to move it through the paint and create different lines, shapes, and colors in your art. Observe how those lines or shapes change as you apply different forces to your marble.

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## Facilitator Guide



### Learning Objectives:

- An artist's medium is a material or technique used to create art.
- A force is a push or a pull. For an object on Earth to move, a force must be applied to it. All forces have a strength and a direction.
- The shape, texture, and mass of an object can affect how it moves when a force is applied.
- Artists can use color theory to create art that evokes different emotions.
- Some colors mix together to make new colors.

### Leading Questions:

- What do you notice when you add more marbles? What about different sized marbles?
- How would you describe the lines created by the rolling marbles? Are they straight? Curvy? Continuous?
- What do you notice about the direction of the marbles when you tilt your box?
- What do you notice happening when the marbles crash into the edge of the box or other marbles?
- Do the colors mix to create any new colors?
- Do the colors that you chose make you feel a particular way? Happy? Sad? Angry?

### Hospital Accommodations:

- Jumbo pipettes can be a good choice for those developing fine motor skills, though be mindful that they will release more paint onto your surface.
- This activity can be transferred to a wheelchair tray easily.

### Key Words:

Color Theory - the study of colors and the effects of mixing colors with other colors.

Complementary Colors - two colors which sit opposite on the color wheel (e.g. blue and orange). Many believe that these colors will look good near each other.

Warm Colors - colors in the red-orange-yellow range. These colors make up one half of the color wheel.

Cool Colors - colors in the green-blue-violet range. These colors make up one half of the color wheel.

Force - a push or a pull. All forces have a strength and a direction. Unbalanced forces are responsible for all movement on Earth.