

# Watercolor textures

## Trees - bark

The bark on tree trunks varies tremendously with the type of tree, but here I've shown you two ways of painting different types of tree trunk which I hope will give you an idea of how to approach the subject.

### Rough bark (such as an Oak tree)

Draw a tree trunk something like this and then paint on a varied mix of colors. Tree trunks are rarely just brown, so use greys, blues, and greens as well as a little brown.

Before the paint dries scrape dark lines into it with the end of a small paintbrush to create fissures and wrinkles.



Paint a little foliage and bed the tree down in the ground by blending some grass into the bottom of the trunk.

Continue adding texture to the trunk with patches of color, drybrush and spatters of clean water until you have the feel of a gnarled old trunk.



## Smooth bark (such as Silver Birch)

Draw a couple of trunks like these and then paint in a dark background so that they show up light against dark.

Use a rigger brush or a small brush to drag a little black paint (ultramarine blue plus burnt sienna) sideways over the trunks. If the paint on the brush is fairly dry it will leave marks like these.

Add a little shadow down one side with a purple (ultramarine blue with a hint of cadmium red), then paint in a few blotches of yellow ochre and a few of cerulean blue.



Finally complete the picture by adding in some more dark leaf masses behind the trees.

Try these exercises, and then look for other types of bark to paint. Can you invent ways of getting the textures and colors?