

Paint Your Own Bethlehem Star

Christmas Card



This simple card is so easy to paint and yet is very effective.

The techniques involved are very simple – watch the video to see how it is done and then follow the steps below to create your own version.

You will need:

Paper: Good quality watercolour paper (140lb/300gm is best)

Paints: Ultramarine blue and yellow ochre

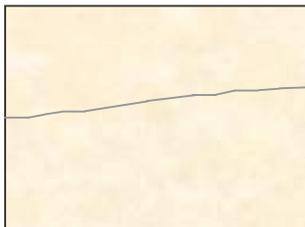
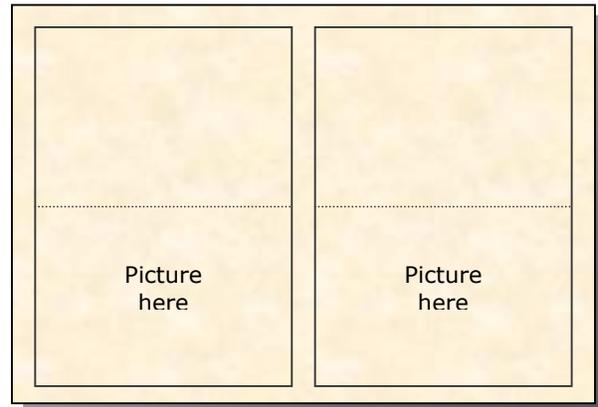
Brushes: A flat ½" (10mm) and a small round

Place your paper on a sloping board at an angle of about 20-30 degrees.

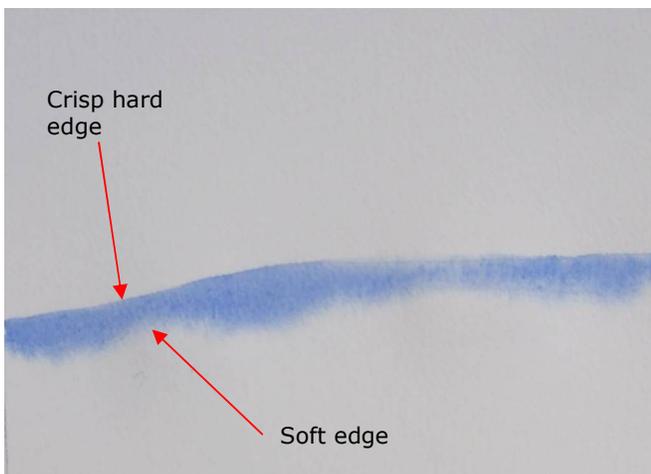
I used a piece of watercolour paper that was 11" x 15" and was able to paint two cards alongside each other as shown here.

Measure the size of your envelopes and then draw two rectangles on your watercolour paper which are just a little smaller, one above the other.

The picture is painted in the bottom half and the card will be folded along the middle line.



Draw a wavy line with a pencil that runs from about halfway up the left hand side of the card to about two thirds of the way up on the right.



Now turn the paper upside down and with a ½" flat brush loaded with clean water, wet the area just below the pencil line. Then, whilst the paper is still wet, brush in a line of ultramarine blue paint. This paint will bleed into the water and should result in a crisp edge at the top and a soft edge at the bottom, as shown here.

Dab away any puddles of clear water and leave the paper to dry.

Then turn the right way up again.

Paint the star with yellow ochre. The shape is shown here.
The star goes in the top right hand corner of the picture, just above where you will paint the town of Bethlehem.



Now paint in the town with a dark mix of ultramarine blue, and add the palm tree. You can paint any shapes you like for the town, but do remember to keep some windows.

Paint the tree with ultramarine blue using a loose curving motion. The tree is important because it balances the picture. Then when it is dry add a second quick flurry of brushstrokes to give it some depth.



The finished painting. It should take just a few minutes, and you can paint several in one go.

Cut the card out and score along the central line with the back of scissor blade or a blunt knife, then fold in half and *voila*, you have your card.

Other Options:

You can vary the design by changing the colours. Here I used yellow ochre for the line and star, ultramarine blue for the village, and a green made from a mix of ochre and blue for the large tree.

You could also turn the large tree into another Palm tree.

