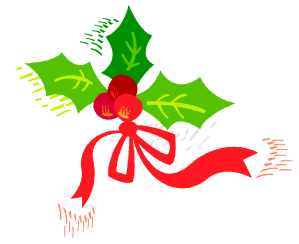


# Paint Your Own Winter Snow

## Christmas Card



This scene is very easy to paint and yet perfectly captures the effect of a snowy winter's day.

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, yellow ochre, cadmium red and burnt sienna

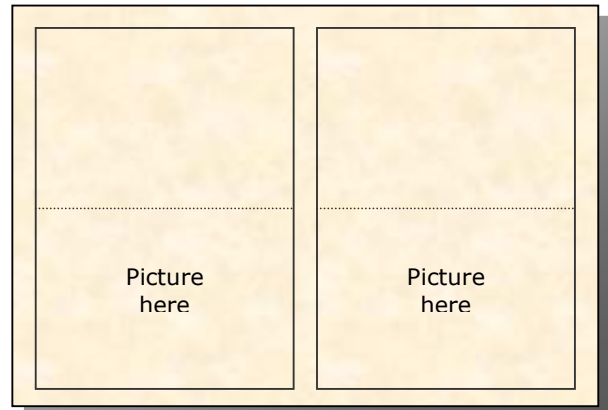
**Brushes:** A large round or a flat ½" (10mm), a small round and a rigger

**Other:** masking fluid and masking tape

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.



Sketch in the simplest outline with a pencil as shown here.

Use an old brush to paint on spots of masking fluid and leave them to dry.

Wash the brush with warm soapy water immediately after using it to get rid of all traces of the latex masking fluid before it dries and ruins the brush.



Turn the paper upside down and put a strip of masking tape along the fold in the card to create a nice straight edge for the top of the sky.

Then mix a good sized pool of ultramarine blue in your palette and use a large brush (a flat or a round) to paint on the sky. Make sure your paper is on a slope so that the paint can run down the paper. Start at the top and paint the sky just below the mountains and then continue adding paint in horizontal bands right down the paper.

Watch the video to see how this is done.

When the paint is dry, remove the masking tape and rub off the masking fluid to leave snowflakes.

Then mix a dull purple with ultramarine blue and a touch of cadmium red and paint in the shadows on the mountains, leaving lots of gaps for snowy areas.





Paint in a few other marks in the foreground with your purple colour, and a few more with yellow ochre.

Use a clean wet brush to soften some of these areas before they dry.



Add the tree with a dark mixture of blue and burnt sienna, using a rigger brush for the smallest branches and add in the fence with the same colour.

Add any more textural marks you think are necessary on the nearest bank and the path to finish your painting.

#### Other Options:

Use the same techniques to create any other winter scene you like. This one was adapted from a photo of Derwentwater in the Lake District in the UK, but you may have photos of your own that you can use for inspiration.

Try to keep everything very simple, unless you have lots of time and want to develop the paintings further.

