

Candle Christmas Card

Step 1 – Draw or trace the outline onto your watercolor paper.

Step 2 – Paint the red candle and berries, painting around the pine at the bottom left.

Your candle can be any color, but you want it to be a little darker at the top edge and a good bit darker near the bottom. As watercolor tends to dry light, you can give your candle as many coats as you like, drying well in between. The candle is the center of interest, so don't skimp on painting the candle. Add some yellow to flame.

The berries are small – you can try to leave a white highlight on them or just paint them red and add a white highlight with opaque white later.

Step 3 – Pine cone first coat of color - light brown or brown and gold. Dry well.

Step 4 – Paint the green pine branches, darker in the back. Dry Well.

Step 5 – Pine cone, second coat – darker at the bottom, skipping spots.

Step 6 – Bottom dark area – dark brown (you can add red), dark blue – go around the objects.

Step 7 – Background – Paint the background gold, lighter around the candle and darker at the edges. If yours get to be the same value everywhere, dab up some in the middle with a paper towel while it is still wet.

Step 8 – Evaluate - darken where needed and/or add opaque white. Darker bits on the pine cones, dark stems in the pine needles, etc.

