



Chickadee with Wet-on-Wet Background

Simple bird for beginners – work wet on wet for soft edges. Use a limited palette (only a few colors) for best results.

Suggested colors:

- Black or Indigo
- Blue – light & pretty
- Burnt Sienna or brown
- Yellow – lemon, etc.

Step 1 – Draw or trace your outline.

Step 2 – Background. Don't overdo it.

- **Mix** a watery blue or blue/black (or whatever color you like) for the background.
- **Wet** the background (go over the leaves and branches) with clean water. To keep the paper laying flat, wet the back of the paper with clean water, also and do not tape. Use a wash brush.
- **Paint – large brush** – lay on a loose diagonal stripe of color from top left to bottom right.
 - **Small brush** – add a few darker areas in the color, or add a FEW spots of color
 - **Paper towel** – dab up some color if desired.
 - **Spattering?** – spatter on light green (yellow + blue) or water for texture
- **Dry well**



Step 3 – Paint the branch with VARIETY.

- Use **brown and black** and water to paint some dark, some light.
- Paint **around the bird's feet**.
- Paint or draw very **thin branches at the edges**

Step 4 – Paint the bird

- **Black** – paint the head, eye, bottom beak and under the beak with a solid black (not wimpy). Make it slightly lighter on the top of the head by adding water or lifting color.

- **Tail** – paint the tail gray, lighter or darker than the sky, so it stands out.
- **Wing** – paint the wing gray, lighter on the top and darker on the bottom.
- **Body** – wet with clean water and work in shading with beige/gray (gray + brown or yellow) darkest under the head near the wing and very light or white around the edges.
- **Head** – wet the white part of the head with clean water and touch in some gray or beige on the eye and back a bit, leaving a thin line of white under the eye.

Step 5 – Leaves – Variety in color and value

- **Mix** some different greens with your colors. (Add a LITTLE tube green if you must.)
- Paint the leaves with lots of variety, some light, some dark, some green to brown, etc.

Step 6 – Opaque white – add a dot in the eye and feathery white edges to the bird.



Practice – Home Work

There are LOTS of cute photos of chickadees on PIXABAY.com. Try painting six cards of different chickadees and color schemes.

