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FUN FOR KIDS

A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE, PUBLISHED MONTHLY TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY, AND ART

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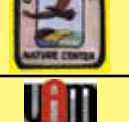
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## This Month's Theme: Wonderful Watercolors

### HISTORY

Today, anyone can walk into an art store or even a supermarket and buy a set of watercolor paints with a lot of different colors included. But that wasn't always the case! When watercolors were first used by artists in the 1400s, each artist had to gather special ingredients and use secret recipes to make each color. It was a very difficult process and took a lot of time and skill. It wasn't until the mid 1700s, nearly 300 years later, that the first paint manufacturers started setting up shop in European cities. These shops sold pigment (the ingredient in paint that gives it its color) and binders (the ingredients used to hold the pigment together in a clump). In addition they sold a new, easier product – "ready made" solid-colored "cakes" (clumps of dried watercolor).

These new dry cakes of watercolor were still difficult to use properly. Any artist that used them had to break off chunks and grind them carefully in water before dipping their brush in to use the paint. Many years later, a bit of honey was added to the recipe. The honey helped the watercolor keep a bit of moisture, making it easier to use the paint with just a brush dipped in water and then rubbed over the cake.

Now, almost another 300 years later, paint manufacturers have improved their formulas (or recipes) so they can offer a larger variety of watercolor. Not only do they offer the cake variety but watercolors also come in a liquid out of bottles and in creams squirted out of tubes. This means there are now inexpensive watercolor sets available for beginners, so everyone can try their hand at creating a watercolor painting if they want to!



### My Secret Watercolor Recipe

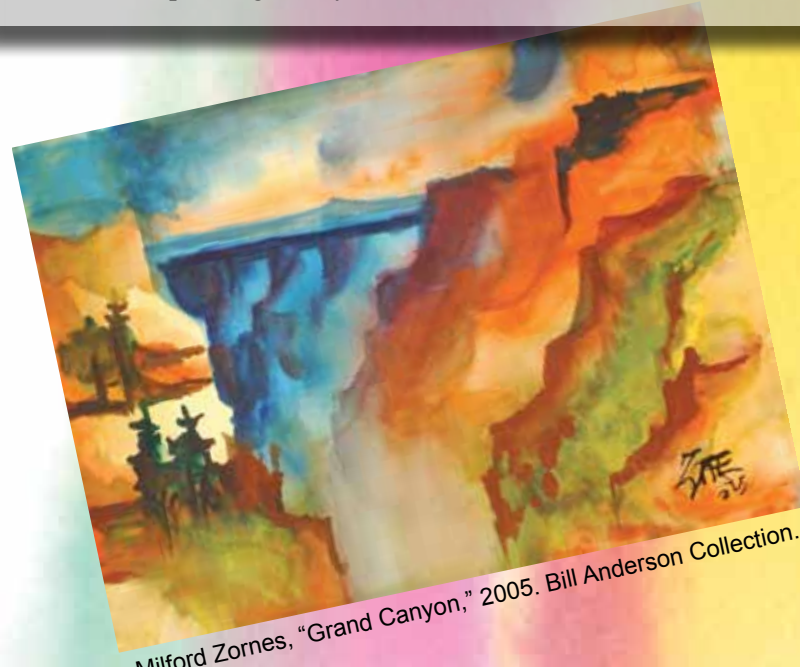
Look at the colors in the palette above. Choose at least one of the colors and write a unique name for it. Now using your imagination, write down a recipe for that color, listing all the ingredients you would need.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

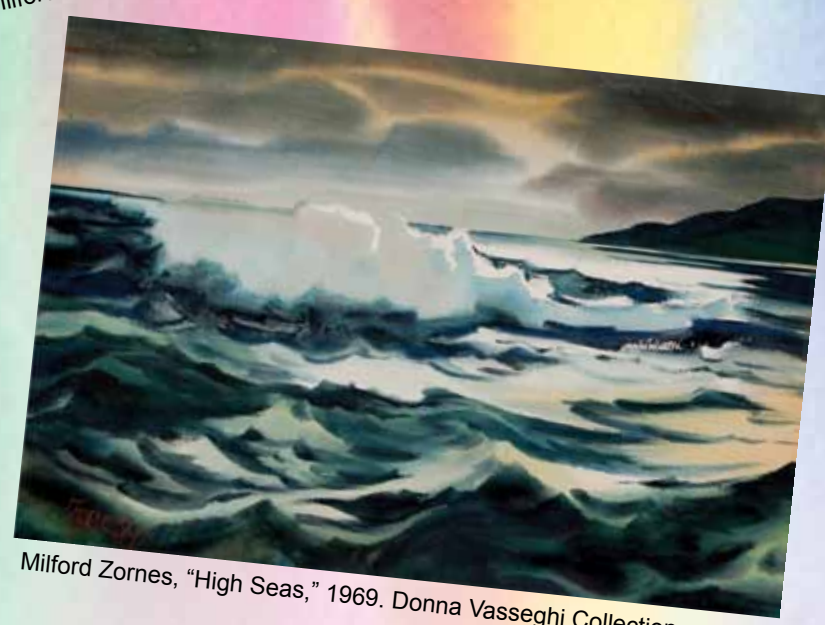
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Milford Zornes, "Grand Canyon," 2005. Bill Anderson Collection.



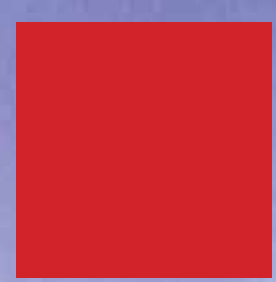
Milford Zornes, "High Seas," 1969. Donna Vasseghi Collection.

### Early California Watercolorist

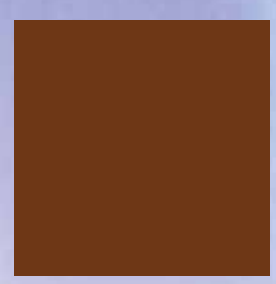
In the 1920s a group of artists formed the "California Water Color Society." The members painted in the Impressionist-style, and their purpose was to promote and encourage the acceptance of watercolor painting as a valid fine art form. One of the artists within this new movement was named Milford Zornes. Using bright colors to describe the landscapes he painted, Zornes became a master at his craft. In 2008, Zornes passed away at the age of 100, the last surviving member of that pioneering movement.

If you would like to know more about Milford Zornes and see 20 of his original watercolor landscapes, visit the Wildling Art Museum in Los Olivos!

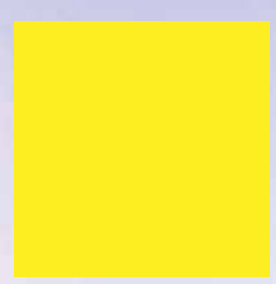
### Eeewww – They Made Paint From That!



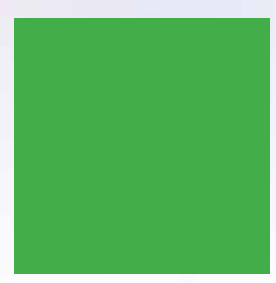
**"Dragon's Blood"**  
This particular red pigment got its name because people a very long time ago believed it was created from mixing the dried blood of dragons and elephants together. Imagine their surprise when it was discovered a thousand years later to be made from the gum (or sap) of a South East Asian tree.



**"Mummy"**  
You would have to be a pretty dedicated artist to use this brown pigment. The color was actually made from the remains of ground up Egyptian mummies.



**"Indian Yellow"**  
This color is made from the urine of cattle that were force fed mango leaves. When word spread of how cruel the cattle were being treated, the color was banned.



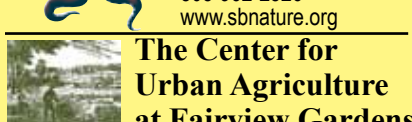
**"Emerald Green"**  
This popular green color was used by Vincent Van Gogh, but was later found to be very poisonous. It was so useful as an insecticide. People started selling it in hardware stores and called it "Paris Green."

 **GRANADA**  
The Granada 805-899-3000 x108  
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www.wildlingmuseum.org

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