



## Curiosity Guide #703

### Wax Science

Accompanies Curious Crew, Season 7, Episode 3 (#703)

## Watercolor Wonders

Investigation #5

### Description

Make the invisible appear like magic with wax and water!

### Materials

- White paper
- Watercolor paints
- Water
- Brush
- White crayons

### Procedure

- 1) Begin by drawing messages and pictures with white crayons onto the white paper.
- 2) Paint the entire paper with watercolor paints.
- 3) What do you notice?
- 4) Look closely at the tip of the crayon. Is it shiny?

### My Results

## Explanation

Watercolor paints are soluble in water, so the paints easily mix. Wax is insoluble, so wax repels water. As the watercolor paint goes on top of the picture that was drawn with wax, the water rolls off and can't penetrate the paper. This makes the white crayon marks suddenly appear. The marks continue to look white in contrast to the painted surface. You may notice when you look closely that the edge of the crayon you used appears shiny. This is because polished or buffed wax is more reflective and why wax is used for shining up cars and shoes.

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