Let’s paint *en plein air*!

Many artists throughout history have enjoyed painting outside surrounded by nature. Artists call this *en plein air*, which is a French term that means “in the open air.” Painting this way allows the artist to capture what they see as it is happening. They can capture a moment in time in their artwork.

**Materials**

- Paper
- Pencil
- Paintbrushes
- Paint
- Water cup

1. Go outside and look around. Find a scene that you would like to capture with paint.
2. Using the pencil and paper, lightly draw in the features of the scene that you see. These marks are guidelines for your painting.
3. Paint in the biggest areas of color first. Don’t worry! It doesn’t have to be perfect.
4. Allow the paint to dry a bit before adding another layer of paint.
5. Add details like trees, flowers, or light posts.

You painted *en plein air!* Beautiful!