watercolor
IN THE CLASSROOM

WATERCOLORS are a versatile and fun way to engage your students within the classroom. Make sure that you take precautions such as smocks, plenty of paper towels and instructions before doing these activities to avoid accidents! Have fun!

TOOTHBRUSH TECHNIQUE

Dip a toothbrush into some watercolor paint. Then dab onto the paper to give a rough texture.
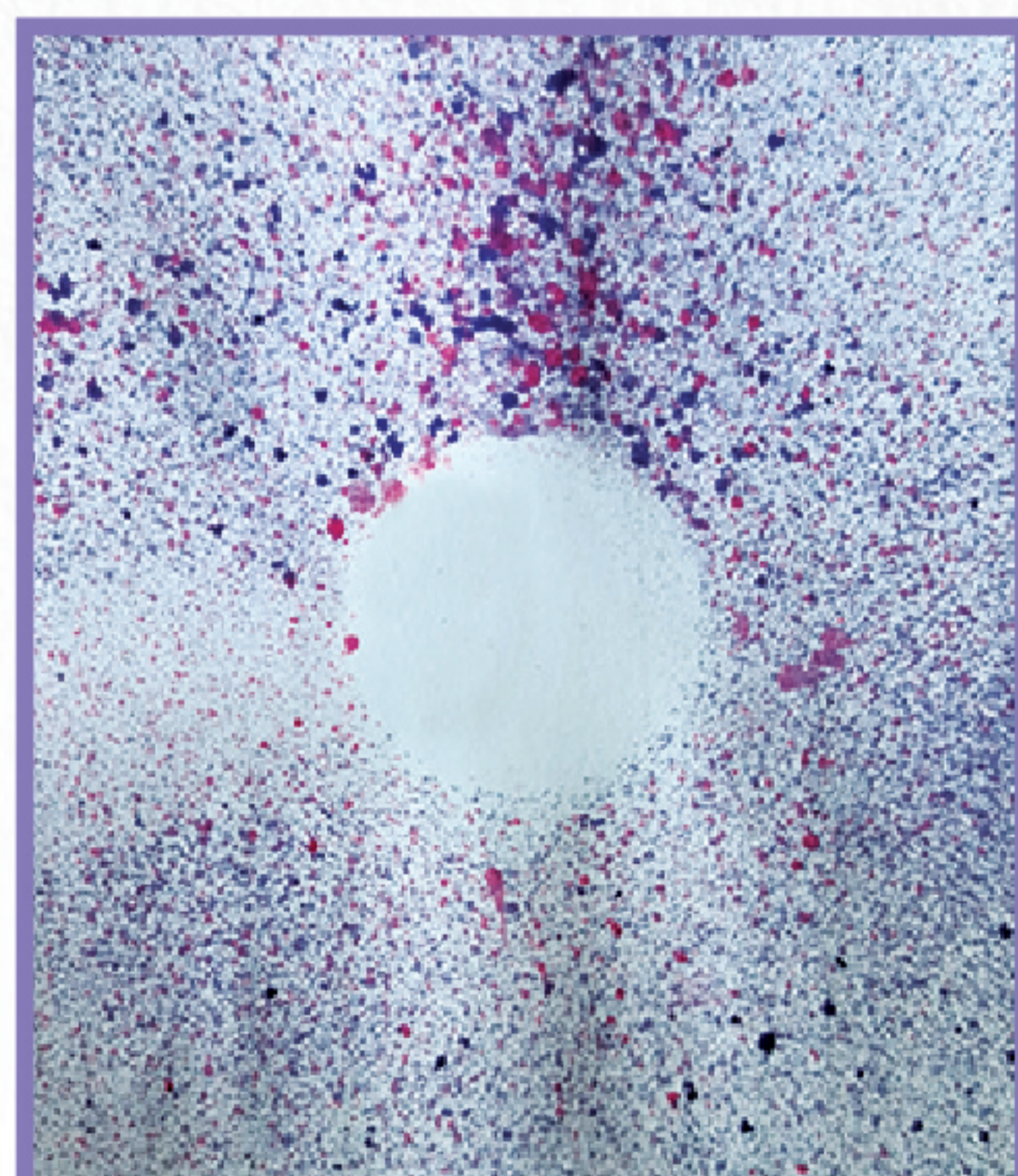

WATERCOLOR OVER CRAYON

Create a drawing with crayon and then take a paintbrush, dip it in water and go over the crayon lines.

SPRITZ TECHNIQUE

Add some watercolor to an old hairspray bottle with spritz top. Spritz the color onto the page around a stationary object (leaf, rock, another paper, etc.)

WATERCOLOR WASH

Dip paint brush into water and then into watercolor. This will thin out the paint so that a wash can be created on the paper.

LESSON PLAN IDEAS FOR USING WATERCOLOR IN YOUR CLASS

SCIENCE

Study animals in their natural habitats. Create their habitat using at least two of the techniques listed above. For instance, the hard shell of the sea turtle can be created using the toothbrush technique. The ocean can be created with the watercolor wash. Describe the differences in texture and how they blend or do not blend into the environment.
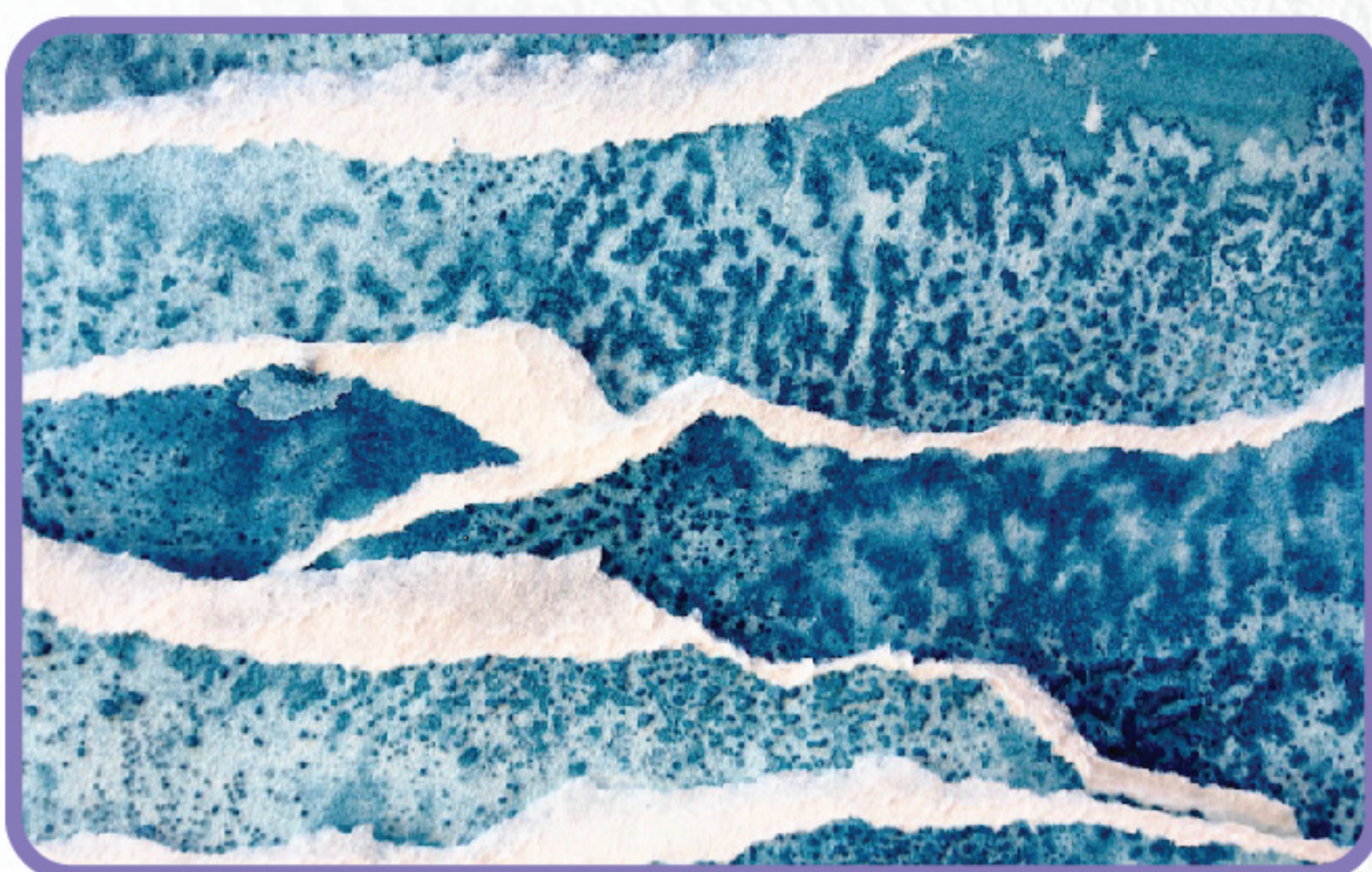
MATH

Have students make their own "custom color" by mixing paint colors and using water to lighten or deepend the shade. When the students mix their colors, they must record the ratios of paint to water they are using so that they can know their "secret formula". Students can then create a 4x4 square of their custom color and the secret formula is written on the back. Create a class quilt of custom color squares and review the formulas and ratios on the back.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Writing using texture and descriptive imagery is difficult. Make it a little more concrete by having students imagine what their story will be about. Then, paint it using the watercolor techniques. Then, have them write the story while describing what each character or background looks and feels like. The writing is much deeper and meaningful using this technique.

TECHNIQUES & ARTS INTEGRATION CONNECTIONS

SALT

ARTS INTEGRATION CONNECTION

The salt technique is a scientific process and has a strong chemistry connection that is perfect for night skies, drawn constellations or moon phases, underwater scenes, or any scientific drawing.

MATERIALS

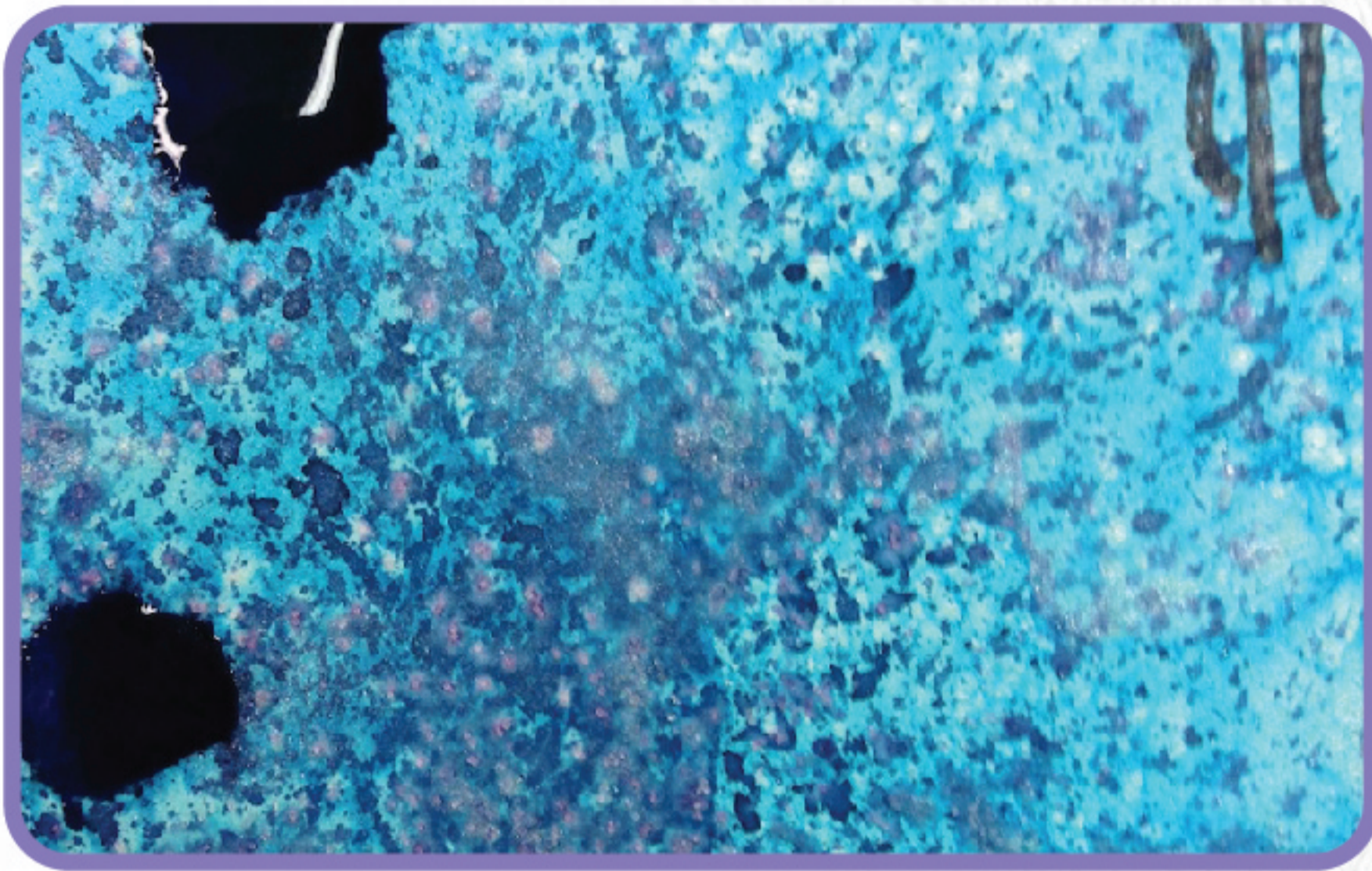Liquid Watercolor Paints | Iodized Table Salt | Containers for Salt

ART VOCABULARY

Visual Texture: How something looks like it might feel.
Physical or Actual Texture: How something feels.

PROCESS

1. Paint a section of a paper
2. Sprinkle salt on wet paint
3. Let the paint dry with salt
4. Brush salt away and reveal star-like bursts.
5. Some salt may dry with the paint creating physical texture or a rough surface

SPLATTER PAINTING

ARTS INTEGRATION CONNECTION

Splatter Painting can be used to add movement to painted objects, but also decorate papers for weaving, collage, and paper sculptures.

MATERIALS
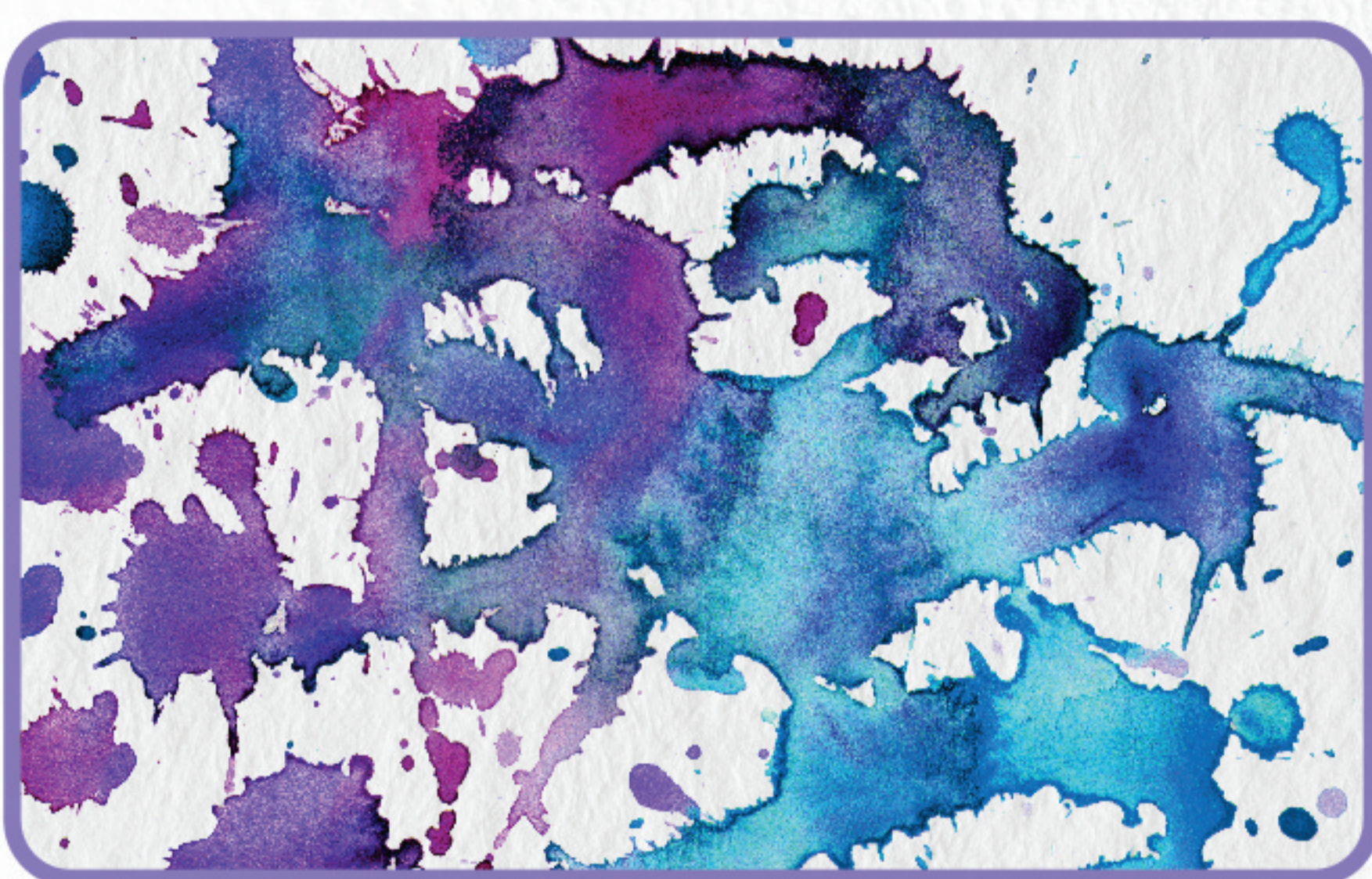
Liquid Watercolor Paints | Toothbrushes

ART VOCABULARY

Pattern: Repetition of an element, such as color or shape. Creates a visual rhythm.
Rhythm and Movement: Using elements such as color or shape to make the suggestion of movement or motion

PROCESS

1. Instead of paint brushes, use toothbrushes!
2. Dip toothbrush in the paint cup
3. Holdover the paper and flick the bristles to create paint splatters

SPIDER PAINTING

ARTS INTEGRATION CONNECTION

Spider Painting can be a lesson in force. The harder the air is directed at the paint, the further the paint travels. Like Splatter Painting, it can also be used as a decorative element for paintings done in the classroom. The hair on an animal or a comet in the sky.

MATERIALS

Liquid Watercolor Paints | Straws cut in half

ART VOCABULARY

Rhythm and Movement: Using elements such as color or shape to the suggestion of movement or motion

PROCESS

1. Place a drop of paint on your paper
2. Use the straw to force the paint in different directions