

Western Tanager in Pastel



This beginner pastel project is a great way to get used to this colorful medium.

Ages 8 and up.

Supplies:

Set of soft pastels

Kneaded eraser

Black, heavyweight construction paper, 9" x 12"

Photo reference of Western Tanager (see below)



1. Using the sharp edge of a yellow pastel, draw a circle for the head of the bird and an overlapping oval for the body.



2. Add triangles for the beak and tail.



3. Erase all of the unnecessary lines with the kneaded eraser.



4. Add the shape of the wing, the eye and the feet.



5. Now draw the branch and leaves.



6. Using small strokes, fill in the yellow part of the bird with a yellow pastel.



7. Now add red strokes around the face. Add a few yellow strokes among the red ones.



8. Fill in the beak with light blue and gray. Fill the eye with black and add a little white highlight.



9. Using light blue, gray, yellow and black, draw the markings on the wing.



10. Add some white strokes to the lightest part of the bird's belly.



11. Color in the branch with gray and add dark brown dots to it. Color in the leaves with green and add light green highlights.



12. Using the sides of red, green and light blue pastels, rub in the background colors lightly.



13. Rub the background colors well with your finger.

Photo Reference:



Western Tanager photo courtesy of www.geekphilosopher.com