

Pastel Poinsettia



Just in time for the holidays - here's an easy art lesson plan that's suitable for ages 6 to adult using soft pastels, charcoal pencil and red construction paper.

The finished project, when scanned or photographed, can be printed onto blank greeting cards to make personalized Christmas greetings for friends and family!

Supplies:

Set of soft pastels

Charcoal pencil

Kneaded eraser

Blending Stump

Red, heavyweight construction paper, 9" x 12"

Photo reference of poinsettia (see below)



1. Using the sharp edge of a yellow pastel, draw a small circle in the center of the page for the yellow center. Draw very lightly.



2. Draw a line coming out from the circle for the center of one of the red leaves.



3. Draw the shape of the leaf around the line. Do the same thing for all of the red leaves that are in front.



4. Now draw the shape of the red leaves that are behind the front ones.



5. Using the sharp edge of a light green pastel, draw the green leaves the same way you did the red ones. You do not need to add every leaf in the photo, just the ones you want. Erase the small circle.



6. Roll the edge of the kneaded eraser into a point and erase the small circle.



7. Fill in one of the red leaves using the side of a red pastel.

Smudge carefully with your finger.



8. Rub on white highlights as shown, using the side of a white pastel. Rub very lightly with your finger. Repeat these last 2 steps with all of the red leaves.



9. Choose at least 3 green leaves that you would like to make light green. Color them in with the sharp edge of a light green pastel and smudge carefully with the tortillion.



10. Color in the rest of the green leaves with a dark green pastel.

Use a sharp edge.

Smudge them carefully with the tortillion.



11. Add veins to the light green leaves with the sharp edge of a dark green pastel.



12. Add veins to the dark green leaves with the sharp edge of a light green pastel.



13. Draw the little yellow buds in the center with the corner of a yellow pastel. Add a tiny red dot in the center of each with the corner of a red pastel.



14. Outline the buds with the charcoal pencil and shade all around them.



15. Outline each leaf carefully with the charcoal pencil.

Wherever one leaf lies on another leaf, add a shadow under the top leaf using the charcoal pencil and smudge with the tortillion.

Do this for the whole picture.



16. Add a shadow under ONE side of each of the green leaves and smudge with the tortillion.

This makes it look like it is sitting on the paper.

Photo Reference

Poinsettia Photo Reference by Scott Bauer, courtesy of USDA, ARS Gallery.



Print this photo before starting the project. Refer to it at EVERY step!