

AN IDEA

Worth Trying

As an art teacher of fifth-graders, I am always looking for new ways to help the students feel success. Students would say things like, "Mine doesn't look right" or "It doesn't look like it should." The students want to be great artists while they are still learning.

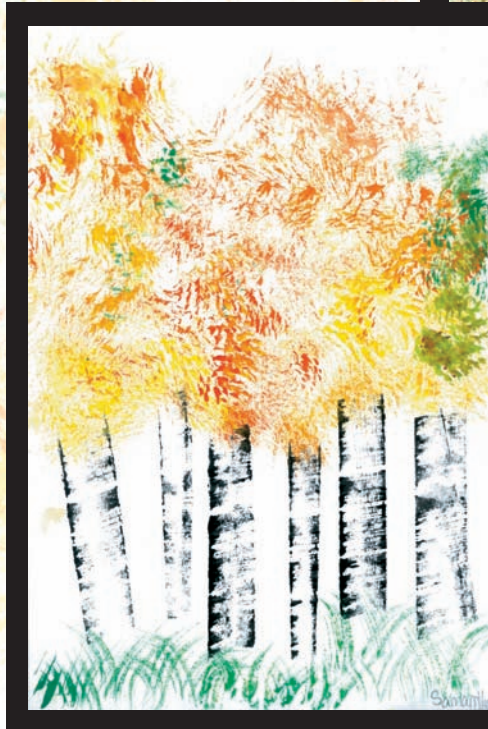
I had been teaching about trees and mountains, and was looking for a new way to do Aspen trees. I had tried a number of ways with our limited budget to make them look like they should, so the kids would buy into the concept.

The students were so thrilled with the result and parents went rushing out to buy frames when they saw what we came up with.

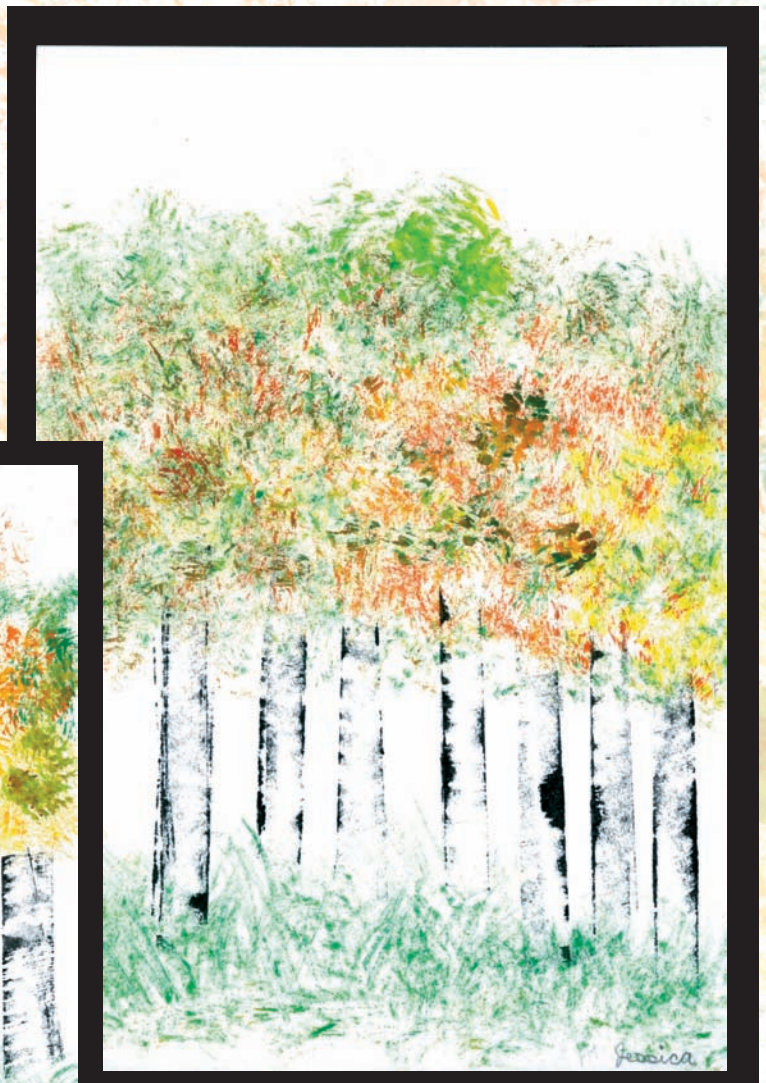
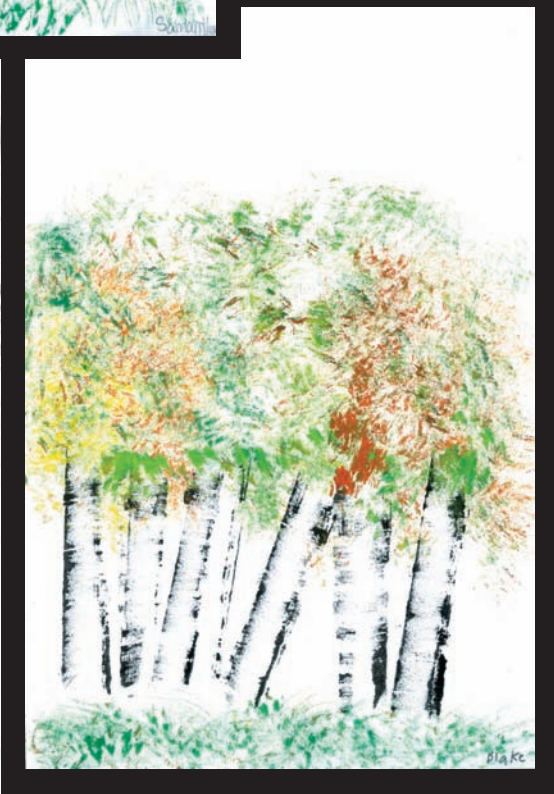
I gave each student a white piece of paper, a paper plate with a small strip of black tempera about 3 inches long and a piece of cardboard about 3" x 2". I had them dip the long end of the cardboard into the black paint and dab it two or three times on the plate to get rid of most of the paint, then stand the cardboard up on the white paper and flick it to the left. They then put the same side of the cardboard a few centimeters over and flicked it to the right. After a little practice, we had beautiful Aspen trunks that looked so realistic.

ASPEN TREES

by Elaine Canfield



Samantha Dewey >
Blake Woodward >



> Jessica Stapley

MATERIALS

- Piece of 3" x 2" cardboard*
- Paper plate*
- Watercolor set and brush*
- White paper*
- Black tempera

(*one per student)

I then gave them a brush and small dabs of yellow, orange and green. I taught them the dry-brush method of putting on the leaves and grasses at the base of our trunks. The students were thrilled with the result.

In the end, I had taught many areas of the core. We had learned about line, color, symmetry and balance. ■

Elaine Canfield is a fifth-grade teacher at Windridge Elementary School in Kaysville, Utah.