

## First Signs of Spring

# Hyacinth Flowers

By Erin Rae Saxena

### OBJECTIVE:

Students will learn about tints and shades and how they create highlights, shadows, and depth as they paint hyacinth flowers.

### AGE LEVEL:

Kindergarten through third grade recommended.

### MATERIALS:

- Art to Remember paper
- Pencil
- Tempera paint
- Cotton Swabs
- Paint brush
- Water and paper towels

### ABOUT THIS LESSON:

A great lesson for late winter/early spring. It's also a good time for a refresher on proper paint brush care.

You can mix all the colors ahead of class if you're short on time (or for lower grades).

### ENHANCE YOUR LESSON:

- > *When Spring comes* by Kevin Henkes and Laura Dronzek (watch on [YouTube](#))
- > *and then it's spring* by Julie Fogliano (watch on [YouTube](#))



*Finished Project*

### NATIONAL CORE ART STANDARDS:

**Anchor Standard #1:** Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work

**Anchor Standard #2:** Organize and develop artistic ideas and work

**Anchor Standard #10:** Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art

See more at [www.nationalartsstandards.org](http://www.nationalartsstandards.org)



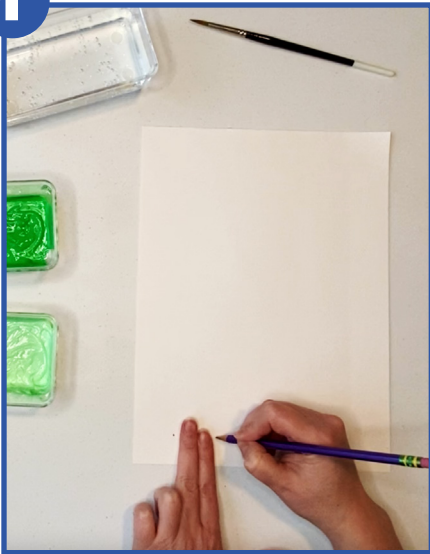
## BEFORE YOU BEGIN!

Begin the lesson by talking about how the hyacinth is one of the first flowers you will see in the spring - so you know spring is on the way.

Have sample images of hyacinth flowers available for students to view, or have a few live plants in your classroom available for students to see up close and smell.

For lower grades, mix paint colors ahead of time.

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### STEP ONE: Draw helper lines

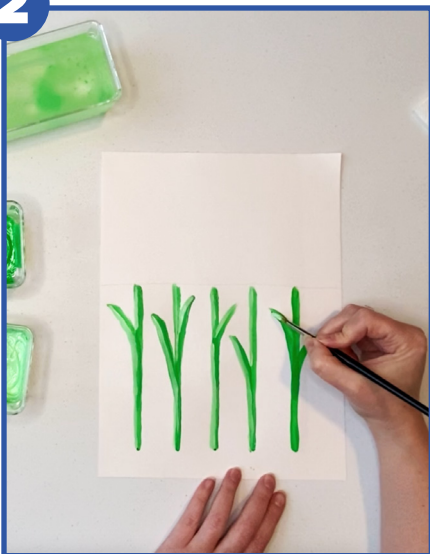
Using your fingers as a guide draw guiding lines (“helper lines”) faintly with pencil on your paper.

You will start with one helper dot 2 fingers from the bottom and 2 fingers from the side of your paper. Continue to make helper dots 2 fingers wide across the bottom of your paper 2 fingers up from the bottom edge. You should have about 4-6 dots.

About half way up your paper, lightly draw a helper line across your whole paper. This is your stem finish line.

Now you're ready to paint.

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### STEP TWO: Paint hyacinth stems

Using a paint brush and green paint, paint a line starting at a helper dot all the way up to your finish line. It's ok if your lines aren't perfectly straight. Make sure you paint one line for each helper dot.

Next paint one or two leaves per stem, bushing up and away from the stem in a curved motion.

Now, you mix a little green paint with white paint to make a green *tint* (or have color mixed ahead of time). Using a paint brush, you paint a smaller thin line along the left side of each green hyacinth stem and leaf. This is a *highlight*.

Clean your brush.



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### STEP THREE: Paint hyacinth flowers

Choose a color(s) for your hyacinth flower: pink, purple, or blue. You can use paint brushes to mix our flower paint (or have color mixed ahead of time), but will use cotton swabs to paint the flowers.

First you mix a *shade* of our flower color (pink, purple, or blue). Add a little dab of black to our flower paint. Using a cotton swab paint the shade dots in a hotdog shape (round on top, round on bottom, with straight sides). Be sure to overlap your flower on it's stem.

Next, using the *pure* color and a new cotton swab, we layer our flower color dots on top of our shade dots.

Finally, using a *tint* of our flower color and a new cotton swab, layer your tint dots on top of your flower, this creates the highlight giving our flowers more depth.

You're finished! Don't forget to sign your painting, and let it dry.

