

TOTORO'S STARRY NIGHT

**SAMPLE
LESSON**

AGES 10-14

Cartooning



Supplies

- Pencil
- Erasers
- Black permanent marker
- 12 X 9 Watercolor Paper
- Watercolor Paints
- Watercolor Paint Brushes
- Water Bowls

Time: 60 min

Ages: 10-14 yrs

Hayao Miyazaki

[BIO: click here](#)



Artist Spotlight...

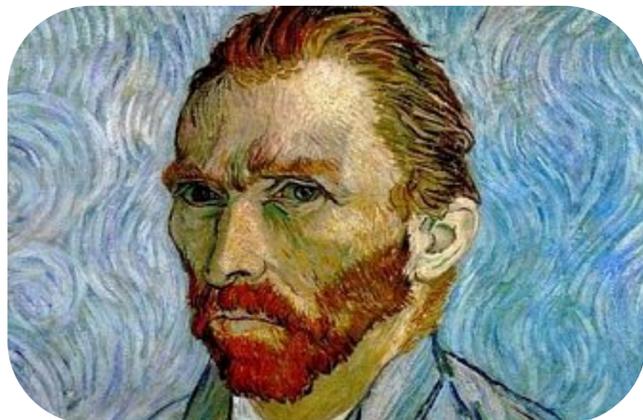
1941 - present
Japanese Animator

3 Fun Facts About The Artist

- He is the Co-Founder of Studio Ghibli, and the creator/director of films such as "My Neighbor Totoro", "Kiki's Delivery Service", "Ponyo", and most recently, "The Boy and the Heron".
- Despite being an amazing animator and director, he is a master watercolor painter.
- When Miyazaki starts a film, he doesn't write an entire script. Instead, he allows the story to develop "organically" during the animation and drawing process.

Vincent Van Gogh

[BIO: click here](#)



Artist Spotlight...

1853 - 1890
Dutch Painter /
Impressionist

3 Fun Facts About The Artist

- He had only been an artist for 10 years before he passed away.
- It is believed that he has created over 2,100 paintings and drawings during his lifetime.
- He was very close to his brother, and they both sent each other hundreds of letters throughout their lifetime.



ArtSkills

- Students learn about Impressionism
- Students continue to develop their watercolor technique, including using swirls to create movement in a painting.
- Students learn how to combine Cartoon characters into watercolor



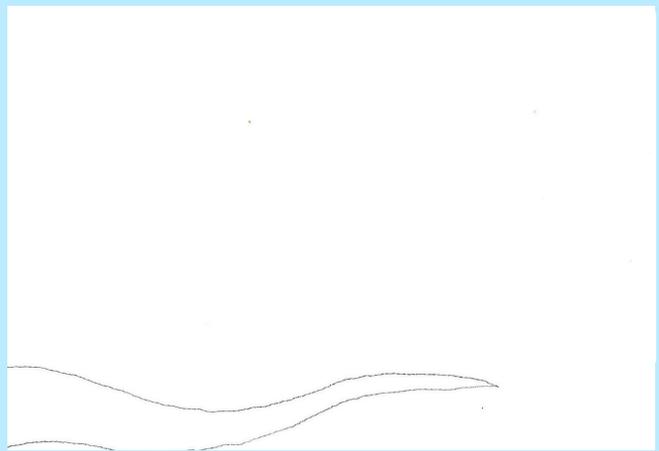
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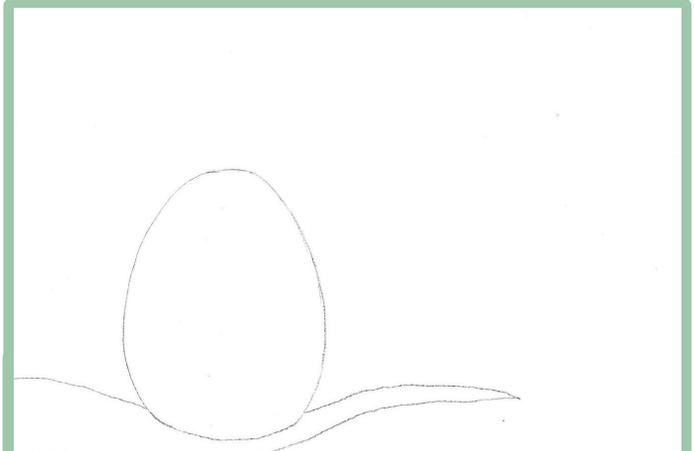
Beginning Steps

- Show students Miyazaki's and Van Gogh's work.
- Ask students what shapes they see.
- Pass out watercolor paper, pencils, erasers, sharpies (if desired), paints, and brushes.
- Put name on paper.



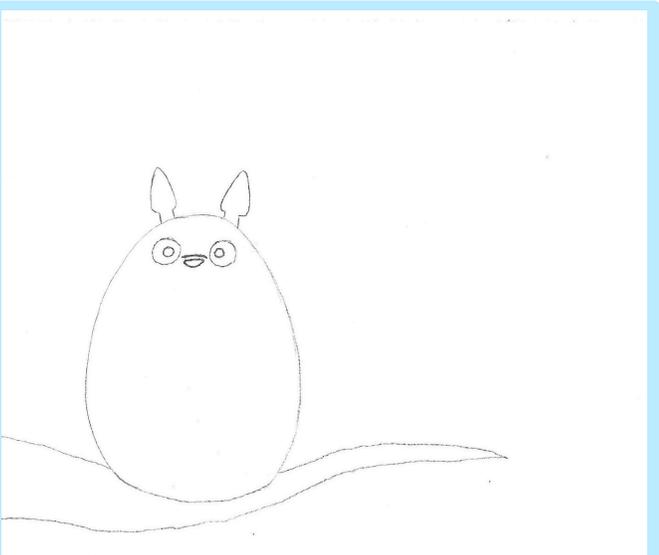
Step 1

- Draw a curved “branch” near the bottom of the paper.



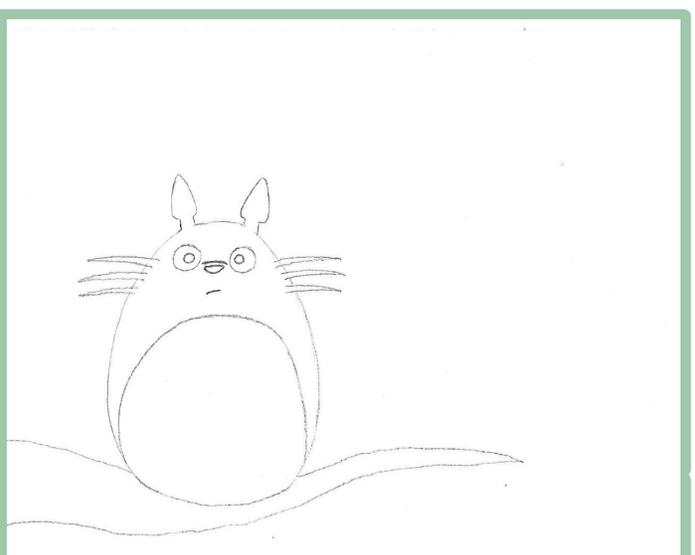
Step 2

- Draw an “egg” shape on the branch to begin the body.



Step 3

- Draw 2 “arrow” like shapes for the ears at the top of the head.
- Draw 2 circles for the eyes and pupils.
- Draw a small horizontal line between the eyes for the snout.
- Draw a triangle shape for the nose.



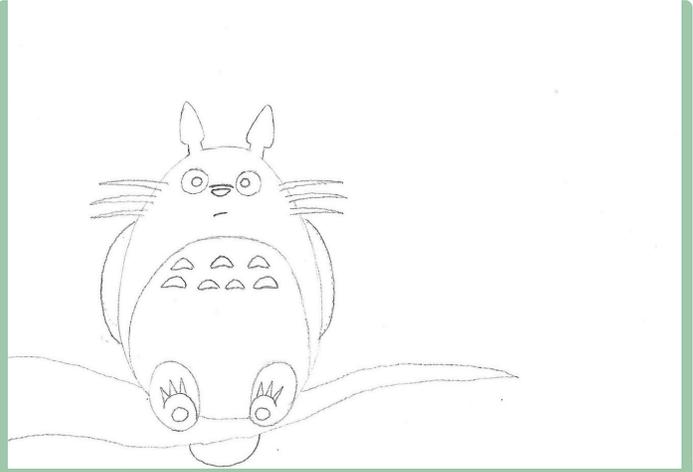
Step 4

- Draw a small line for the mouth.
- Draw 3 “whiskers” on each side of the head.
- Draw a circle for Totoro’s belly.



Step 5

- Draw curved lines downward for the arms.
- On the belly, draw a row of 3 triangles, then draw 4 triangles in a row below the first.
- Draw a circle near the bottom of the body for the legs.



Step 6

- Draw a semicircle at the bottom of each leg for the foot.
- Draw a circle at the bottom of each foot for the foot pad.
- Draw 3 long triangles on each foot for the "nails".
- Draw a curved line below the branch for the tail.



Step 7

- Draw a crescent moon in the top right corner.
- Draw swirls and curvy lines in the sky and near the bottom of the paper.
- Draw several circles around the paper for "stars".



Step 8

- Paint the branch a light brown color
- Paint Totoro's body and triangles on his belly a brown or gray color. Paint his belly a light yellow.



Step 9

- Paint the pupils and nose black (a sharpie can also be used if preferred).
- Paint the moon, stars, and some swirls a bright yellow.



Step 10

- Paint some of the swirls a light blue, and a medium blue color.



Step 11

- Paint dark blue from the top of the page and blend it with medium and light blue throughout the rest of the background.



Step 12

- Using your paintbrush, have students make swirls and wavy lines throughout the painting using different shades of blue, yellow, orange, green, and white.
- Let Dry!



Final Steps

- When students are finished, have them wash their hands and help take off their smocks.
- Then have students go get their parents at end of the class.
- Let students be excited about their artwork to their parents!
- Show parents artwork and take pics with students and artwork.
- They can take their artwork next week after it's dry.

...and don't forget to **HAVE FUN!**

