

Q-Tip Cherry Blossom Tree



Total time: 20 Minutes

Materials:

- **Card stock, multipurpose paper, or canvas, in any rectangular size you prefer**
- **Pink (or red and white), brown (tempera) paint**
- **Watercolor paint**
- **Q-tips (enough for a small bundle)**
- **1 rubber band**
- **Paintbrushes (round, flat) and water container**
- **Palate or paper plates**
- **Paper towels (cloth towels)**



1. For my painting's background, I chose watercolor and created a sun fading into a graduated wash. You can use tempera (washable) paint instead or create a night scene with a moon.

A graduated paint wash often progresses from dark to light. You may want to practice a vertical wash first before creating the circle for the sun. For a vertical graduated wash using one color, put a thick line of color at the top. Then with a very wet brush move the paint left to right while also dragging the paint downward.

To create a circle wash like a sun that fades, do the same method while moving your hand quick in a circular motion outward. For multi-color washes, leave some space between each color and use some water to blend them into each other.





2. Next, once the watercolor has dried, you can begin to make the tree's branches. There is no wrong way to do this; just combine twisted and straight lines that reach across the paper. The composition is up to you. You can add varied tones to the brown which will give some shade and add dimension. Let the branches dry.



3. Now you are ready to bundle your Q-tips using a rubber band. You can use however many or little you desire. Play around with the amount and test it out on a scrap paper.

4. For this step, you will use dark pink and light pink for the cherry blossoms. Using dark pink first, dab your bundle of Q-tips into the paint and stamp them onto your branches. Leave some space for the lighter pink next. The layered pinks will look great! You can go back and fix your branches if needed after the pinks dry.



Plastic bottle printing alternative: A 2-liter soda bottle will work best, because of the five points on the bottom, which are similar to the five petals on a cherry blossom. However, some water bottles also have good bottom ends for printing petals with. Mix your desired pink color and press the bottom of the bottle into a flat layer of paint. Next, stamp your bottle where you want to create cherry blossom effects on your branches.