Lo: To build my understanding of 'painting a 'wash'

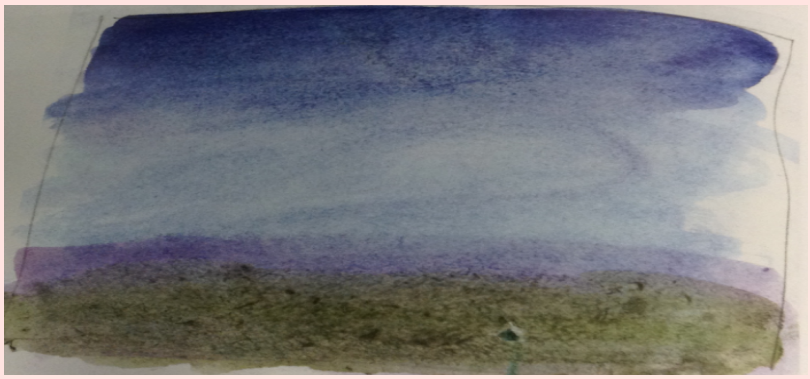
One of the most important skills in watercolour painting is that of painting a wash. Watercolour pictures are often built up in layers, one wash on top of another, and then the picture on top of that. The washes can form the background, or they can be the painting itself, depending on the subject. The paper is heavier than usual paper, because it needs to absorb the water, and it is often wetted or dampened before it is painted on. You are going to try laying down a wash on wet, damp and dry paper. The most common use of a wash in a painting is for the sky, and that is what you will do.

Resources
Watercolour paints
Water pot
Watercolour brush
Cotton wool
Paper towel
A4 cartridge paper
A pencil

Instructions (pg 70)

Remember not to scrub with the brushes and not to leave them standing in the water. Always rinse them and lay them down flat on the table.

Draw a rectangle on your paper as a frame.



Instructions (pg 70)

1. Dip the piece of cotton wool in water, squeeze it out and dampen the rectangle.
2. Mix Prussian blue then run the side of the brush across the top quarter of the rectangle.
3. Quickly wash the brush and place the side of the clean, wet brush at the place where the colour meets the paper. Then run the side of the brush across the paper and move the colour down the rectangle to the halfway point.
4. Wash the brush, place the clean wet brush on the edge of the blue and pull the colour down to the three-quarter point.
5. Repeat the last step and finish off the lower quarter.
6. Use a wet brush to spread out and blend any sudden changes of tone.

Instructions (pg 70)
You need to move quickly before the paint dries.

Next make a wash on wet paper, then on dry paper.
Compare the results.

To finish off mix carmine (crimson) to the Prussian blue to make a soft purple and paint the bottom third of one of your skies with this colour.

Next add some Hooker's green to this mixture and paint a bar across the bottom of the page as grass or hills. The colours should blend softly.

This is how you can build up a watercolour picture in layers.

