

ArtGrow. Creative



LIGHTHOUSE

INSTRUCTIONS

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Getting Started



Create a bold and vibrant coastal scene featuring a striking lighthouse set against a dramatic sunset sky. Using expressive brushstrokes and simple layering techniques, you'll blend warm oranges with cool blues to capture movement in both the sky and water. This beginner-friendly painting focuses on contrast, texture, and letting go of perfection while building a scene that feels bright, dynamic, and full of energy.

Core Colours:



BLUE

WHITE

ORANGE

BLACK

Optional Colours:



LIGHT BLUE

YELLOW

Painting Title: Lighthouse

Skill Level: Beginner-Friendly

Approximate Time to Complete:

60-90 Minutes

Supplies Needed:

- **Canvas** – Pre-stretched, sketched and primed, size of your choice.
- **Acrylic Paints** – Choose from the following colors:
 - Blue (primary water + sky)
 - White (blending + waves + lighthouse)
 - Orange (sunset glow)
 - Black (rocks + lighthouse top/details)

Optional (but helpful):

- Light Blue (or mix blue + white)
- Yellow (for warming the sky slightly — can also mix with orange)
- **Brushes** – A variety of sizes, including flat, round, and detail brushes.
- **Palette** – For mixing colors.
- **Water Container** – To rinse brushes.
- **Paper Towels or Rags** – For cleaning brushes and surfaces.
- **Apron or Old Shirt** – To protect clothing from paint.
- **Easel (optional)** – For comfortable painting posture.

Feel free to tailor the colors and supplies to suit your painting project!

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1

With a 1" flat brush and orange paint, add a generous layer around the Lighthouse and at the bottom part of the sky. Add white to the area above it. Then with a chip brush or a wadded up piece of paper towel, start dabbing and smooching the two colors together. Going back and forth between the two colors.

STEP 2

Repeat the same step with blue paint. Add paint to the upper left corner and add more white paint. With a chip brush or a wadded up piece of paper towel, dab and smooch the two colors together. Going back and forth between the two.

STEP 3

Paint the water with blue and white. The chip brush adds great texture to the water, as you paint side to side.

STEP 4

With a medium round brush, add a thin layer of white over the Lighthouse. Mix a touch of black to a lot of white to make a light grey. Add a small amount to the right hand side of the the Lighthouse with a detail brush and blend it into the white. This will make the lighthouse look round.



STEP 5

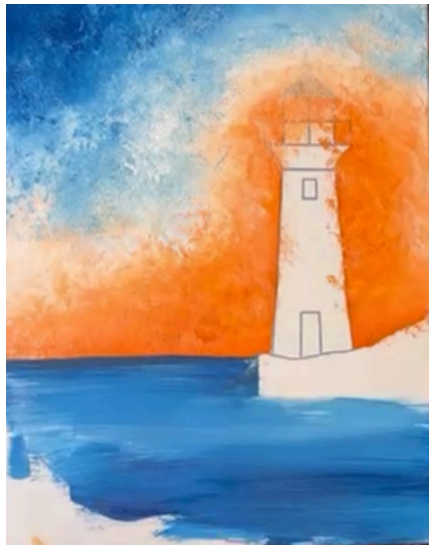
Paint the door with blue. Then, paint the top and window black. A detail brush is great for the smaller areas. Let Dry.

STEP 6

With a medium round brush or the corner of your chip brush, add some white splashes behind the cliff. Paint the cliffs black. Let dry.

STEP 7

Add the white highlights to the top of the lighthouse. Create more splashing waves in front of the cliff and blend the bottom edge into the water. GREAT JOB!



You Did It!

You've finished your night landscape painting—great work! Before you hang it up or gift it to someone special, here are a few optional finishing touches to really make it shine:

FINAL CARE & DISPLAY TIPS

- **Seal your painting** with a clear acrylic sealer (spray or brush-on) to protect it from dust, smudges, and moisture. Be sure it's completely dry before sealing.
- Want to skip framing? Try **gliding a sponge dipped in black paint** along the edges of the canvas for a crisp, finished look. It makes the artwork feel complete and polished on its own.
- If you do want to frame it, floating **frames from Amazon** are an affordable and easy way to elevate your piece. They make the painting really pop!

Now step back and admire what you've created—you brought this canvas to life!



Behind the Brush



Hey! I'm Susan,

I created ArtGrow Creative because I know what it feels like to doubt your creativity — and how powerful it is to rediscover it. You don't need to be an "artist" to make something beautiful. You just need space to try, play, and surprise yourself.

Whether this was your first time picking up a brush or one of many, I hope you felt that spark. That moment where you realize you're allowed to create just because you want to.

Thanks for painting with us. Let's keep growing — one brushstroke at a time.

*Susan
O'Sullivan
Choros*

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Troubleshooting Common Acrylic Painting Challenges

Even the most confident artists run into little hiccups! Here are some common painting issues and quick fixes to help you troubleshoot with ease, but remember, mistakes are part of the process. Trust the journey, and most importantly—enjoy creating!

:

1. Paint is streaky or see-through

Problem: The canvas is showing through too much.

Fix: Let it dry fully and add a second thin layer. Acrylic paint works best in layers—don't try to glob on too much at once.

2. Colours are muddy or blending weirdly

Problem: You're mixing colours on the canvas that weren't meant to mix.

Fix: Let each section dry completely before painting beside or on top of it. A quick blast with a hairdryer helps speed things up!

3. Brushstrokes look too harsh

Problem: You want smoother blends or softer texture.

Fix: Use a light hand and slightly dampen your brush with clean water to help the paint glide more smoothly. Blend while the paint is still wet.

4. Paint is drying too fast

Problem: You're losing time to blend or adjust.

Fix: Work in smaller sections or lightly mist your palette with water to keep paints workable. Some people also use a wet palette.

5. You can't see your sketch anymore

Problem: You painted over your outlines and feel lost.

Fix: That's okay! You can always re-sketch with chalk or a water-soluble pencil, or freehand with a brush or marker during outlining.

6. Paint looks clumpy or uneven

Problem: Too much paint or an old brush.

Fix: Wipe off excess paint before applying. Use a thin, even layer and try a softer brush. Clumps can often be smoothed once dry with a dry brush or sanding block.

7. The paint is lifting when you try to paint over it

Problem: You're going over an area that's not quite dry.

Fix: Stop and dry the area completely before layering again.

8. You're feeling stuck or frustrated

Problem: It's not looking how you imagined.

Fix: Take a step back and remember that acrylics are super forgiving. You can always paint over something or adjust it later. Keep going—perfection isn't the goal, progress is.