

Digital Art Adventure: Drawing with Texture and Layers (The Magic Galaxy Jar)

Materials Needed

- iPad (with protective case)
- Rock Paper Pencil Screen Protector (Installed)
- Apple Pencil (Charged)
- Procreate App (Installed and updated)
- Optional: Reference images of glass jars or galaxies

Introduction (10 Minutes)

Hook: Why Does Digital Art Feel Real?

Educator Talk: Close your eyes and imagine drawing with a pencil on paper. What does it sound like? What does it feel like? Today, we are using special equipment—your Apple Pencil and the 'Rock Paper Pencil' screen protector—to trick our brains! We are drawing digitally, but the screen gives us that wonderful texture and resistance, making it feel just like drawing on paper. We are going to harness that feeling to create a layered piece of art!

Learning Objectives (What will we learn?)

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

1. Identify and use the four essential tools in Procreate: Brush, Eraser, Color Palette, and Layers.
2. Demonstrate how to create, rename, and manage multiple layers to build an artwork.
3. Create a unique 'Magic Galaxy Jar' using textured brushes.

Success Criteria (How will I know I did well?)

You have succeeded if your final Galaxy Jar:

- Uses at least three separate, labeled layers (Jar, Background, Galaxy/Stars).
- Clearly shows a difference between a smooth brush (for the jar) and a textured brush (for the galaxy).
- Successfully contains the 'galaxy' inside the jar outline.

Body: Content and Practice (40 Minutes)

I Do: Setting Up Our Digital Canvas (Modeling) (10 Minutes)

Step 1: The Canvas and the Feel.

- Open Procreate. Tap the + sign in the top right corner to create a new canvas (use 'Screen Size' for simplicity).
- Hold your Apple Pencil and draw a few test scribbles. Notice how the screen protector gives you a slight resistance—that's the 'paper' feel!

Step 2: Tour of the Art Headquarters.

I will model the location and basic function of our four key tools:

1. **Brush Tool (Paintbrush Icon):** Used for drawing. Tap it to see the list of brushes.
2. **Eraser Tool (Eraser Icon):** Used for fixing mistakes.
3. **Color Palette (Circle Icon):** Used for choosing colors. (Model how to quickly drag the circle to fill the screen).
4. **Layers Panel (Stacked Squares Icon):** This is our digital superpower! Each layer is like a clear sheet of plastic. If we draw the background on one layer and the jar on another, we can change the background without erasing the jar.

Modeling Layers: I will draw a circle on Layer 1 (Background) and a square on Layer 2 (Object). I will then hide Layer 1 to show that Layer 2 remains untouched.

We Do: Building the Jar Foundation (Guided Practice) (15 Minutes)

Now, let's build our Galaxy Jar step-by-step together.

Step 1: Prepare the Background Layer.

- Go to the Layers Panel (Stacked Squares).
- Tap **Layer 1** and tap it again to select **Rename**. Name this layer: "**Background.**"
- Choose a dark color (deep purple, navy, or black) using the Color Palette.
- Use the Brush Tool (we will stick to 'Studio Pen' for now). Drag the color circle from the top right corner and drop it onto the canvas to fill the entire background.

Step 2: The Jar Outline.

- Go back to the Layers Panel. Tap the + sign to create a new layer. Tap **Rename** and call this: "**Jar Outline.**"
- Choose a lighter color (like white, light gray, or cyan) so it stands out against the dark background.
- Draw a simple jar shape (like a tall oval or a rectangle with rounded edges).
- **Pro-Tip: QuickShape!** If you draw a shape and keep your pencil pressed down at the end, Procreate will snap it into a perfect shape. Keep holding, and tap the screen with one finger to make it a perfect circle or square. (Practice using QuickShape for the main body of the jar.)

Formative Assessment Check: Look at your neighbor's screen (or pause and check your own layers). Do you have two layers, named Background and Jar Outline? If so, you are ready for the magic!

You Do: Creating the Galaxy Magic (Independent Application) (15 Minutes)

This is where you get creative and apply what we learned about brushes and layers!

Step 1: The Galaxy Layer.

- Create a third new layer. Tap + and rename it: "**Galaxy Magic.**"
- Go to the Layers Panel. Important: Drag the "Galaxy Magic" layer *below* the "Jar Outline" layer. Why? So the jar outline always stays on top, like a window frame!

Step 2: The Texture Brush.

- Tap the Brush Tool. Scroll through the brush library and find the 'Calligraphy' set, or look for 'Spraypaint' or 'Abstract' sets.

- Select a brush that looks speckled or dusty (like '**Speckles**' or '**Aerosol**'). This is our 'Magic Dust' brush.
- Choose bright colors (pink, electric blue, green, white).
- Start coloring and tapping inside your jar outline only. Use the texture brush to build up swirling clouds of color. You are creating a galaxy trapped inside the jar!

Step 3: Finishing Touches.

- Add small, bright white dots using a very fine brush (like the 'Studio Pen' again) on the **Galaxy Magic** layer to represent stars.
- Optional: On the Jar Outline layer, use the Eraser Tool to gently take out the center of the jar line to simulate transparent glass.

Conclusion: Sharing and Reflection (10 Minutes)

Recap and Review

Educator Talk: Today we explored the power of drawing on a textured surface and, more importantly, the superpower of layers! Why are layers helpful?

- (Learner response: Because you can change one thing without ruining the whole drawing!)

Summative Assessment: Gallery Walk / Show and Tell

Share your "Magic Galaxy Jar" with the group (or with the educator/family member).

Learner Task: Briefly explain:

1. Which layer holds your Jar Outline?
2. Which textured brush did you use for the galaxy?
3. What was the biggest difference between drawing on your screen with the Rock Paper Pencil protector and drawing on a regular smooth screen?

Extension and Next Steps

Differentiation

- **Scaffolding (For learners needing help):** Provide a pre-made canvas with the Jar Outline layer already drawn. Focus their efforts solely on finding the correct textured brushes and layer management.
- **Extension (For advanced learners):** Challenge them to learn and use **Alpha Lock** (a small button on the Layer Menu). Alpha Lock allows them to color only within the lines of a layer they have already drawn on (e.g., coloring the jar outline without painting outside the shape).

Challenge for Next Time: Explore the Blending Tool (the finger icon) to soften the edges of the galaxy clouds we created today.