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## REQUIRED MATERIALS

### 1. Sketchbook / Paper

- I can recommend 2 different types of notebooks that I think are best for field sketching. We will mostly be working with watercolor, so you **must have a notebook with at least a few pages of watercolor paper!** Regular sketch paper will instantly buckle. I highly recommend a [Moleskine](#) watercolor notebook. They are easy to transport and come in an array of sizes.
- You will need a few sheets of toned **Canson** paper – this can be purchased by the sheet at some art stores or in packs online. You should carry a few sheets in the sketchbook you carry into the field.

### 2. Basic Drawing and Observational Tools

- [Drafting pencil](#) – I recommend size 0.5 and extra lead (required)
- [Kneaded eraser/stick eraser](#)
- A few **ink pens** (Pigma micron or Copic are good brands)
- **Small ruler or straight edge** – about 6 inches in length
- **Jeweler's Loupe (10-20x)** – this is an essential tool for botanical studies. It is basically a small magnifying glass that will be held to your eye. You can even take photos of very small details through it with a smartphone.
- **Gouache** – a small screwtop nalgene container (2oz is plenty and can be purchased at REI or online), zinc white gouache, and oxgall. We will go over putting these together to get a good consistency of white gouache that can be used in the field to add finishing highlights to a painting.

\* if you don't want to buy oxgall you can simply purchase a small tube of white gouache. It will not behave quite as nicely as when mixed with oxgall, though.

### 3. Watercolors / Brushes

- [Pentel Waterbrush Pen](#) --- (or equivalent) these are ESSENTIAL to a good watercolor kit! I even use these in my studio. I have 3 sizes. You may also choose to use traditional brushes, but make sure to carry a cup for water with you.
- 1 roll **Viva** papertowels with no pattern (can be found at most grocery stores as single rolls)

- [Watercolor palette set](#) --- I recommend **Winsor & Newton** – they have multiple options from \$13-100ish. There is no need to spend > \$40 if you are strapped for cash! It is necessary for you to also have a tube or pan of **Quinacridone magenta** or an equivalent magenta hue. If you do not have this hue, you will not be able to properly mix purple, and you will be frustrated.

Recommended colors (**required in bold**):

- Cadmium red
- Cadmium orange
- **Lemon yellow**
- Cadmium yellow
- Yellow ochre
- Burnt sienna
- Burnt umber
- **Magenta (quinacridone)**
- Viridian
- Sap green
- **Cobalt or ultramarine**
- Cerulean
- Paynes gray

- \* If you have a strong interest in watercolor and plan to use it in the future, investing the time and money to create your own palette is worth it. You can customize colors and refill from tubes as needed. Listed below are the items you would need to create your own. Make sure you squeeze tubes into your tray and allow to dry for about 3 days before transporting into the field.

- Empty [Pro-Art Palette](#)
- An array of **Winsor & Newton** (or comparable brand) watercolor pigments in colors listed above (5ml is a good starting point for tubes)

#### 4. Colored Pencils

- **Prismacolor** (high-quality and expensive) or **Faber-Castelle** (still high-quality but less expensive), or if you have a set that you like or don't want to spend much money, that is fine, too! You will have the option of using colored pencils to give depth to your watercolors in the field, or to create drawings on toned paper. No need to shell out a ton of money on a huge set. Basic sets will do just fine.

#### OPTIONAL MATERIALS (but strongly recommended)

- **Camping chair/stool/something to sit on** – it can get quite uncomfortable sitting on the ground for long periods of time. A chair or stool is really useful – something lightweight and transportable. I recommend [Therm-a-rest's Trail Seat](#) - it is a cushion that inflates in one breath and rolls up to fit in your backpack. There's also the [ALPS mountaineering sidekick](#) stool– you can find it for pretty cheap right now on outdoor sites like [backcountry.com](#).
- **A hat for the sun, and sunscreen.** Protect yourself!
- **A pouch to carry everything with some nice pockets and zippers is really great.** This means you can grab your kit and go whenever! I use [Kavu's Grizzly Kit](#) because it has two zippered pockets on the outside, a large zippered central compartment, mesh pockets inside, and some nice handles to grab it and go. It also fits moleskines and the Pro-art palette that I recommended. Keeps everything protected and is easy to throw in a backpack.

- **Small binder clips** – sometimes it is windy and having something to clip your paper down is useful! Make sure they are pretty small clips – you can buy individual metal ones for pretty cheap at some art stores.
- **Gel pen** – Uniball “Signa” white works well
- **Niji Roll** for carrying colored pencils on the go
- **Hairdryer** – a small foldable one is best – I use this at home only for drying between watercolor washes
- **Binoculars/Monocular** – this is a good tool to carry with you in the field. I have downgraded to a monocular to cut down on weight and price.
- **Any other materials that you would like to experiment with**, or that you like to use when sketching.