

Tea Inspired Art

Step-by-Step Instructions



Teacup, around 1870. PAMA Museum Collection.



Child's tea set. PAMA Museum Collection.

Do you enjoy a cup of tea? What do you drink your tea in? Maybe you have a special mug or teacup. Pictured here is a teacup and a child's tea set from the PAMA Museum Collection.

People have been drinking tea for thousands of years. Teaware (teacups, teapots and other objects used for brewing and serving tea) have changed over time. You will often see different patterns on tea sets or teacups, just like the ones in the PAMA Collection.

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January is Hot Tea Month! Gain inspiration from patterns and the teacups in the PAMA Collection as you create your own stacking teacups.

Materials: Pencil, Paper, Tea, Cup and Plate (or Saucer), Paintbrush, Permanent Marker, Markers

1. Draw

Use a pencil to sketch your stacking teacups. Start with the bottom cup and add more going up. When you are happy with them, draw over them with a permanent marker. If you only have regular markers, you can draw over them at the very end when your artwork is completely dry.



2. Tea Time

Use 2 – 3 teabags or a tablespoon of loose tea with around ¼ cup of water to make a very strong cup of tea. You can use any tea, but darker ones will show up more. You can also use different teas to make different colours. In this example, a black tea and blue herbal tea were used.

Pour some tea onto a small plate and stamp the bottom of your cup with the tea. Then stamp circles onto the background of your artwork. You can also use a paintbrush to paint with the tea.

Allow the tea to fully dry before moving to Step 3. If your paper curls, you can put it under a heavy book to flatten it.

3. Add Patterns

What type of patterns do your teacups have? After the tea has fully dried, use markers to draw patterns on your teacups.

