Developing a painting
Part 2: Starting to paint

The wash
A lot of landscape paintings have the sky in a large block of one colour. This effect is created by adding a simple wash of colour to the background. You can achieve this by mixing a lot of paint with water so that it is watery and pale in colour. Use a big brush and paint this generously onto the paper to cover the area where the sky is.

Using colour
It is important to avoid using dark colours straight away. These colours can bleed into lighter colours and cannot be reversed. Start with pale colours and then introduce slightly darker colours, avoid using dark paints such as black until the end. If you use too much paint, or do not like the colour, you can remove it when the paint is wet with a paper towel.

Wet on wet
Use the wet on wet technique to add additional colour to the sky. This will help you achieve a more natural look. Touches of yellow can help suggest sunshine or grey will give a gloomy landscape. To suggest clouds you can leave parts of the paper white.

Mix it up
A colour wheel allows you to mix colours to create new colours. A great way to do this is by using primary and secondary colours. For example, you can use blue and red to make purple, if you don’t have it!