How to create textured trees and background

You will need:
- Different coloured paints, including blues, greens, and browns
- A sharp pencil
- Different sized brushes
- Paper (watercolour paper is best, but ordinary paper will do!)

Begin by drawing a simple trunk. Make it more realistic by including simple branches and an uneven base.

Now add the outline of the canopy. Make sure it is uneven and not symmetrical – just like most real trees.

Next, paint a simple wash over the tree, the ground, and the sky. This will be the base colour, and you will add detail afterwards. Make sure it is not too dark or your details will not show. You can see a simple wash in four steps below.

Now you can begin to add some details. Use careful dabs of your paintbrush to add a different green on to the canopy. Be careful to leave space between each mark, and do not paint them in rows. Make some dabs overlap the edge of the canopy.

Add more leaves, using the same technique and a different green. Again, leave some gaps between the leaves and overlap the edges of the canopy. You may wish to add some detail to the grass using simple thin strokes.

Use the same technique and a third green. This is your final selection of leaves but do be sure to leave some gaps in the coverage so bits of the original wash can be seen. Add more detail to the grass.

Now add some details to the trunk. Use a darker brown and paint short uneven lines going up the trunk.

If you want to add more detail to the ground or to the sky this is the stage to do it at. You could use different strokes of green for grass or swirls for bushes. You could mix white and a very light blue and create clouds. It's up to you!