

Selene: Goddess of the Moon

In Greek mythology, Selene is the sister of Helios, the god of the sun. The Romans called her Luna. She drives her moon chariot across the heavens. In our statue she is riding a horse into battle with the Giants.



In this activity we will imagine Selene in colour and paint her dress to look like the moon. We will layer on paint using a variety of techniques.

Watch [the instructional video](#) on our YouTube channel.

You will need:

- [Printed drawing of Selene](#)
- Paper or card
- Sticky Tape
- Paintbrushes
- Sponge / something to dab with
- Paint, sharpies, colouring pencils (anything that has colour).
- A paint palette (a piece of thick cardboard, a piece of plastic or a jar lid)
- Something glittery

1. Get Inspired

Can you see the moon outside your window? It should be out quite early in February. Take a look and think about the colours and textures. Will you paint the white highlights? the dark craters? the speckled surface?

2. Prepare the Drawing

We will be putting a lot of paint on the drawing. Place it on card or cardboard and tape in place for safety.

3. Paint the base layer.

The drawing needs a base layer of paint that we can add details too. Paint the dress with grey or off-white paint. Chose colours for the other elements, I chose night sky blue for the horse. You can use a sponge here to give the surface of the moon some texture.

4. The large darker regions are next.

Known as *Lunar Maria* or the moon seas, they do not contain any water.

- d) Start with darkest paint you have to place a few large spots. Give them uneven edges.
- e) Once you are happy with the size of your seas, daub grey paint on the edges. The intention is to make the edges of the sea stand out from the rest of the surface.

5. Craters

There are over 9 thousand craters on the surface of the moon. They are more circular than the *Lunar Maria*. And brighter in colour.

- a) Using a small brush and white paint on a few craters. Avoid the dark areas you've just created.
- b) With the same brush create a splatter effect. (You might want to cover the area around your painting before you do this). Take a lot of paint onto the brush. Hold it with one hand over the painting, and gently tap it with your other hand.
- c) The impacts that created the craters sometimes left blast lines. With your paint brush create some white lines leading away from the crater.



6. Wisp and smooth

The splatter most likely went everywhere and created quite stark lines. We want to smooth it out and make it less stark.

Take a bit of a dry sponge, or large paintbrush, and gently dab through the painting.

7. The horse, lion skin and details of Selene.

It also needs some colour! Add white and yellow dots with the splatter technique or by dabbing gently with your paintbrush. Let your imagination run wild! What about Selene's hair? She has a small moon diadem on her head which also should be painted.

8. Make it shine!

A variety of materials will work here: shiny paint, glittery nail polish, glitter, special marker pens.

- a) Dab the shine throughout the dress.
- b) Add a few glittery dabs to Selene's hair and body.