

# Japanese woodcuts for you to paint

You will need:

- watercolor paints
- brushes
- paper towels

Look at some photographs of the original woodcuts. Use Google image search and try these key words: Japanese, woodcuts, Hiroshige, Hokusai. (Hiroshige and Hokusai were the most famous woodcut artists.) You could also try typing in the titles of the woodcuts, but use the word “woodcut” or “Japanese” as well.

Notice how the color in these pictures often fades from dark to light. You can imitate this coloration with your watercolor paints by starting out with lots of color in the brush then adding only water and no more paint as you work downward. You might not even have to add water. Just bring your brush down and let the paint get thinner as you go.

To make your colors the same hues as the original, you might need to mix them a bit, especially blues and greens. Japanese blues tend to be more like Prussian blue or peacock blue, not royal blue. (Try adding just a little red to your blue to make it more towards purple?) Greens tend to be similar to Hunter green. (Try adding a little blue to your green.) If you buy watercolors in tubes you can get colors already mixed.

TIP: You can pick up unwanted water and paint by squeezing the brush thoroughly then touching it to the area you want to “erase.” The dry brush will instantly pick up a small amount water or paint.

江戸近郊  
 入景之内  
 玉川秋月

川を渡る  
 舟の山  
 舟の山  
 舟の山  
 舟の山  
 舟の山



江戸近郊



"Autumn Moon at Tama River" 1837

Japanese woodcut by Hiroshige

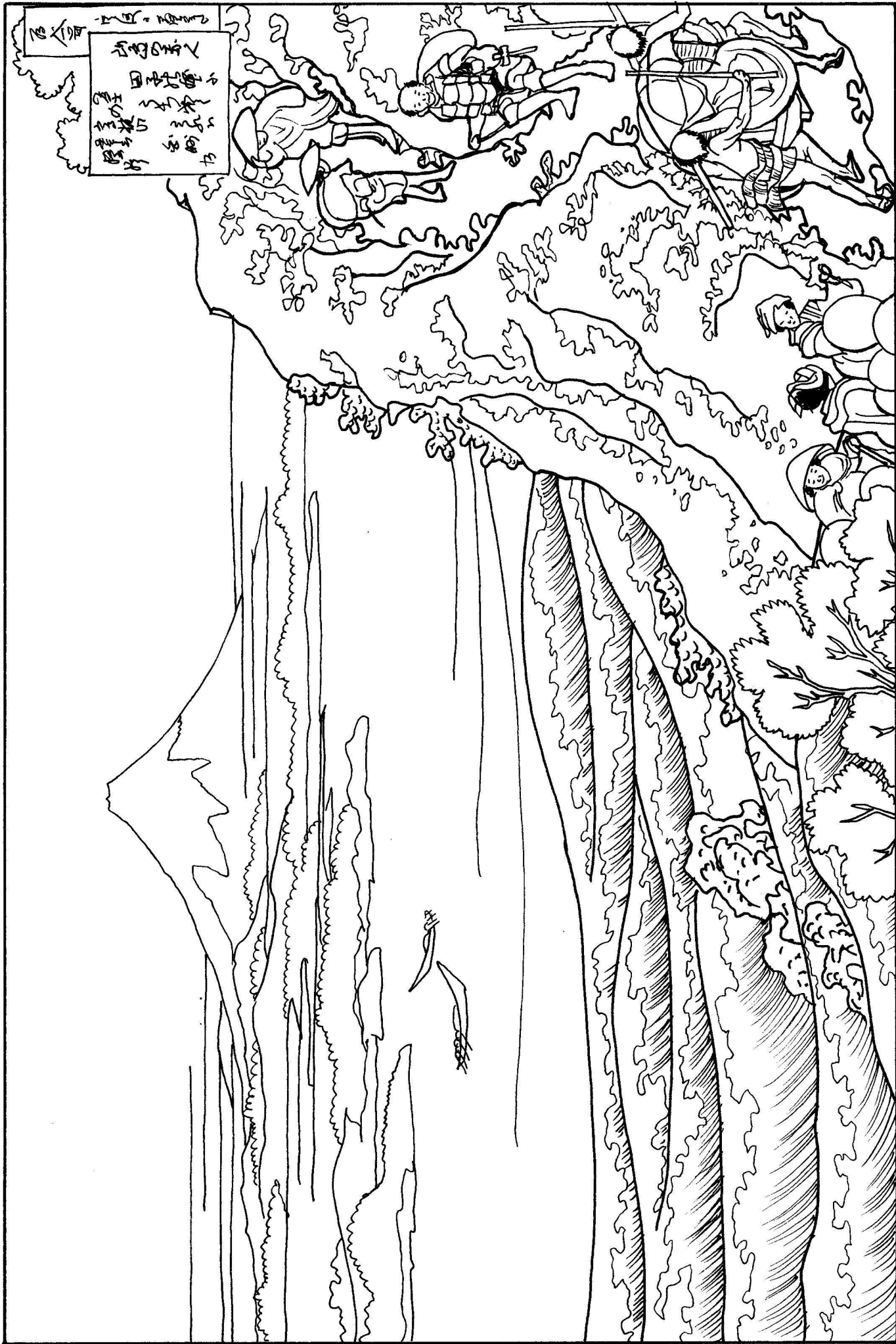
富坂三太景神奈川  
浪川景

しやがきん

"The Great Wave of Kanagawa" 1831

Japanese woodcut by Hokusai



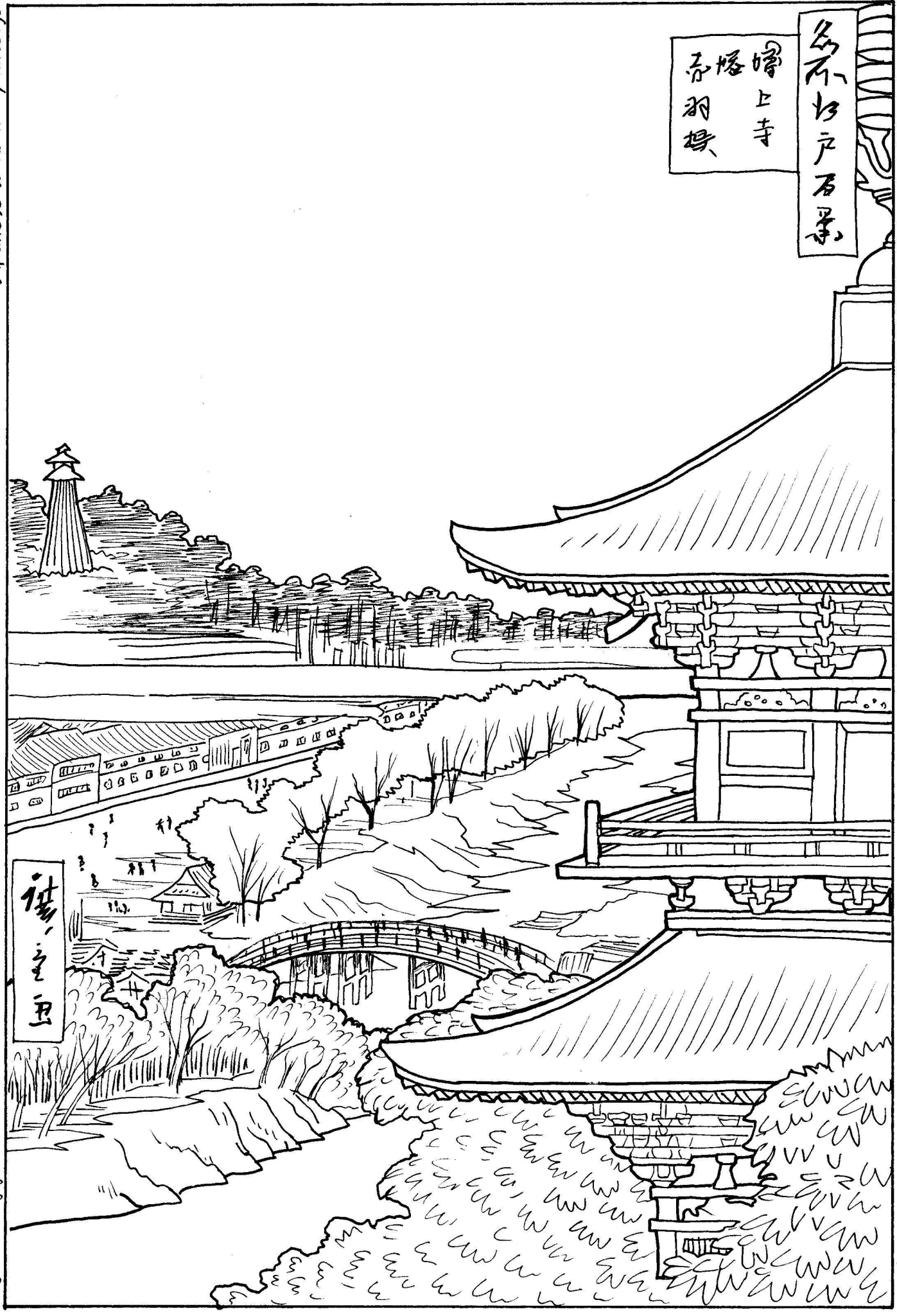


"Snow on Mt. Fuji"

Japanese woodcut by Hokusai



名所江戸百景  
増上寺  
赤羽橋



増上寺



富士三十六景  
武蔵小倉井

河下櫻

