SunSpaceArt
Art Worksheet 18 – by Helen Schell
Shaping the Big Sun (Solar Features)

Background
The SunSpaceArt project aims to inspire children and to develop creativity. The project brings together arts and science learning (STEAM). The team comprises scientists, space ambassadors and artists. The project is funded by the Science and Technology Facilities Council. For more information, see the www.sunspaceart.org website or contact info@sunspaceart.

This art worksheet is designed for teachers to deliver SunSpaceArt lessons independently.
Grade: Key stage 2 or 3
Ideal Class size: 24-30

Objectives: for teachers and pupils to create a big Sun with dramatic solar features and to examine the Solar System and space within the context of plans for solar exploration. The aim is to enable a greater understanding of space science by using art and craft techniques and literacy. The links below can also be used for story writing, poetry, performance, maths and IT sessions within a larger project. This is an ideal format to introduce the children to careers in science and the arts.

Workshop Themes:
solar science (energy, light, spectrum and magnetism)
solar and satellite technology (communication and IT)
Sun & Earth (environment)
solar features - coronal mass ejections, solar flares, solar wind, sunspots and the seven layers of the Sun

Materials:
- Large recycled domestic plastics, paper, card, fabrics, boxes and strings & ribbons
- Collage materials (tin foil, stickers, holographic paper & printed images)
- Scissors & craft knives (age appropriate)
- PVA glue, glue sticks, tapes, staplers, DS sticky pads, and glue guns for older children
- Water based paints & brushes of different sizes
- White & coloured paper & card (A4 – A1) or larger size sheets
- Pencils, crayons, felt tip pens & oil pastels

Extension Themes
- Planets, moons, stars, galaxies, satellite & rocket technology

Workshop plan
Running Time: at least one full day’s activity or several lessons over a longer period

Activities:
The aim is to create a big Sun with dramatic solar features in terms of solar science and exploration. This should be achieved using lots of large recycled items, collage, folding, cut-out and painting techniques. The children should include written facts
with their art and design. Groups can work together on selected solar features and bring them together at the end. Please set out a range of materials for easy access and to promote experimentation. All materials and activities are suggested and we hope that teachers and pupils will develop their own customised versions as this is about space exploration and discovering new things. Pupils can work in groups, pairs or as individuals.

**Step 1:** Workshops should begin with either a PowerPoint presentation or pupils can do their own research either online or by using books and magazines. A whole class discussion will get ideas flowing and enable children to develop their chosen project.

**Step 2:** The class should be divided into different ‘solar feature’ groups and there should be a planning session using paper and pens. These designs can later be included in the large Sun.

**Step 3:** The groups can then make component parts for the larger artwork. This stage could take a morning or even longer depending on the size of final piece.

**Step 4:** With supervision and direction, the pupils should add their components to the big Sun. A large open space will be needed for this construction and it can be 2D or 3D.

**Step 5:** It is a good idea to bring the whole class together for a design discussion and to suggest the finishing features. If more are needed, then another session might be required.

**Final Project:** All artworks and scientific investigation can be brought together to create a Sun exhibition and extra space themed objects can be added, such as Solar System planets, satellites and rockets. They should present a ‘Show & Tell’ and projects can be used for school assemblies, exhibitions and parent events.

**Discover more - online resources for research & development:**
- [http://www.suntrek.org/](http://www.suntrek.org/)
- [https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/solar-system/sun/overview/](https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/solar-system/sun/overview/)
- [https://sci.esa.int/web/solar-orbiter](https://sci.esa.int/web/solar-orbiter)
- [https://www.nasa.gov/content/goddard/parker-solar-probe](https://www.nasa.gov/content/goddard/parker-solar-probe)
- [https://www.esa.int/esaKIDSen/TheSun.html](https://www.esa.int/esaKIDSen/TheSun.html)
- [https://www.nasa.gov/sun](https://www.nasa.gov/sun)

*Workshop Images*