SunSpaceArt – WS3

Art Worksheet – Calder mobiles

Introduction

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 worksheet is designed for teachers to deliver SunSpaceArt lessons independently.

Level: Year 5/6
Grade: Key stage 2
Class size: 25

Three-dimensional mobile sculptures are made to hang from the ceiling with colourful shapes inspired by the Sun and space, and the artist Alexander Calder.

Workshop plan

Presentation on Alexander Calder (15 min)
Looking at how Calder was drawn to nature, in particular the relationship of the Moon and Sun. Show images of Calder’s mobiles with abstract shapes. Explain that ‘abstract’ art is about colour, shape and material qualities without representing something directly. Also introduce colour mixing using red, blue, and yellow acetate overlapped to show the relationship of primary and secondary colours.

Drawing from Calder (15 min)
Draw shapes in colour inspired by Calder, using images of his work and thinking about how this might relate to the Sun and space. Classroom should be arranged with 6-8 children per table.

Building mobiles (40 min)
The children will build small structures using mixed materials based on their drawings and imagination. These works can be individual or children could agree a common theme in a small group. Teachers prepare a cross structure with two wooden/bamboo sticks, which are given out to each group, once they are ready, to hang their mobiles from.

Show and tell, plus feedback (15 min)
Find appropriate spaces to hang artworks for children to look at (2 min). Ask a volunteer to talk about another student’s work that they find inspiring. Then ask the student how they made the work (10 min). Ask the children to write feedback (on post-it notes or forms) on what they have learnt and how they might explore this further (3 min).

Additional resources
• Sun presentation
• Alexander Calder presentation
• Video on www.calder.org

Extension
• Drawing shapes from Calder
• Drawing from finished mobiles

Materials:
• wire
• glue (sticks, PVA, glue gun)
• coloured card, tissue paper & acetate
• string
• small objects (e.g. beads, buttons)
• plasticine or air dry white clay
• wooden / bamboo sticks
• colour pens and pencils
• scissors
• tape
Mobiles: Step-by-Step

Step 1
Drawing from Calder in coloured pens and pencils.

Step 2
Making small structures for the mobiles from mixed media.

Step 3
Connecting different structures together to form a mobile, hanging from wooden crossed sticks. It is important to consider how the parts will balance.

Step 4
Hang mobiles from the ceiling.