SunSpaceArt – WS5

Art Worksheet – watercolour painting of Antarctica

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. It focuses on Antarctica.

Level: Year 3/4
Grade: Key stage 2
Class size: 30

Materials:
- watercolours
- watercolour paper (A4 / A5)
- paint pallets
- brushes
- plastic cups (for washing brushes)
- trays (with 1 inch of water)
- kitchen roll
- drying rack

Additional resources
- Antarctica presentation
- Factsheets are available from: the British Antarctic Survey (www.bas.ac.uk) and Royal Geographical Society (www.rgs.org/schools)
- Artist reference: Turner

Extension activities
- Create a short poem – see separate worksheet.
- Science experiment to measure melting ice cubes.

Introduction
Inspiring children about the landscape, wildlife and explorers of Antarctica. Encouraging them to express, through watercolour paintings, what it might feel like to be in Antarctica.

Workshop plan

Antarctica presentation (30 min)
Covering the basic geography of Antarctica (south pole, covered in ice, a desert), the wildlife (noting that penguins live in the Antarctic and polar bears in the Arctic) and explorers (Scott, Amundsen and Shackleton) (20 min). Questions and discussion with children (10 min).

Art workshop (35 min)
Ask the children to imagine they’re a character in Antarctica: an animal or a person (such as an explorer, scientist and/or artist). Demonstrate the watercolour dipping. Then ask them to make an image of their character in Antarctica. Ask them where they might be: on the ice, in the sea, flying in the air or living in a base or ship. Ask students to write their names on the paper in pencil before dipping in water. Tidy up (5 min).

Show and tell (20 min)
Display artworks on a table and ask the children to carefully look at them without talking or touching, as if in an art gallery (5 min). Ask a volunteer to talk about another student’s work, which 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).
Watercolour dipping: Step-by-Step

**Step 1**
Take a sheet of watercolour paper (A4 or A5 size) and submerge it in water for a few seconds.

**Step 2**
Place it on a wipeable surface. Move watercolour across the paper rapidly with a brush. Ideally before the paper dries. Kitchen roll can be used to wipe off excess paint.

**Step 3**
Leave the artworks on a table or drying rack. Students could add to the works once dry by including painting back into them or collaging on top.

Example watercolour works by students