International Day of Light

ARMAGH OBSERVATORY & PLANETARIUM

SUN PAINTING

Have you been enjoying the fabulous sunshine while at home? Since it is the INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIGHT today, why not celebrate light by creating your very own 'light-filled' painting? Light is something we often take for granted because it such a basic part of our everyday lives, but without it – life would not exist on Earth and astronomy would be impossible!

In this activity – we're going to focus on something very important to us and to the Solar System, the celestial object that takes centre-stage in our local neighbourhood in Space and is the source of all our light in the daytime… *THE SUN!*

Did you know the Sun is our nearest star in space and 1 MILLION times bigger than our planet?!

Why not learn more about the Sun after doing your solar painting?

https://armaghplanet.com/?s=sun

THE CHALLENGE:

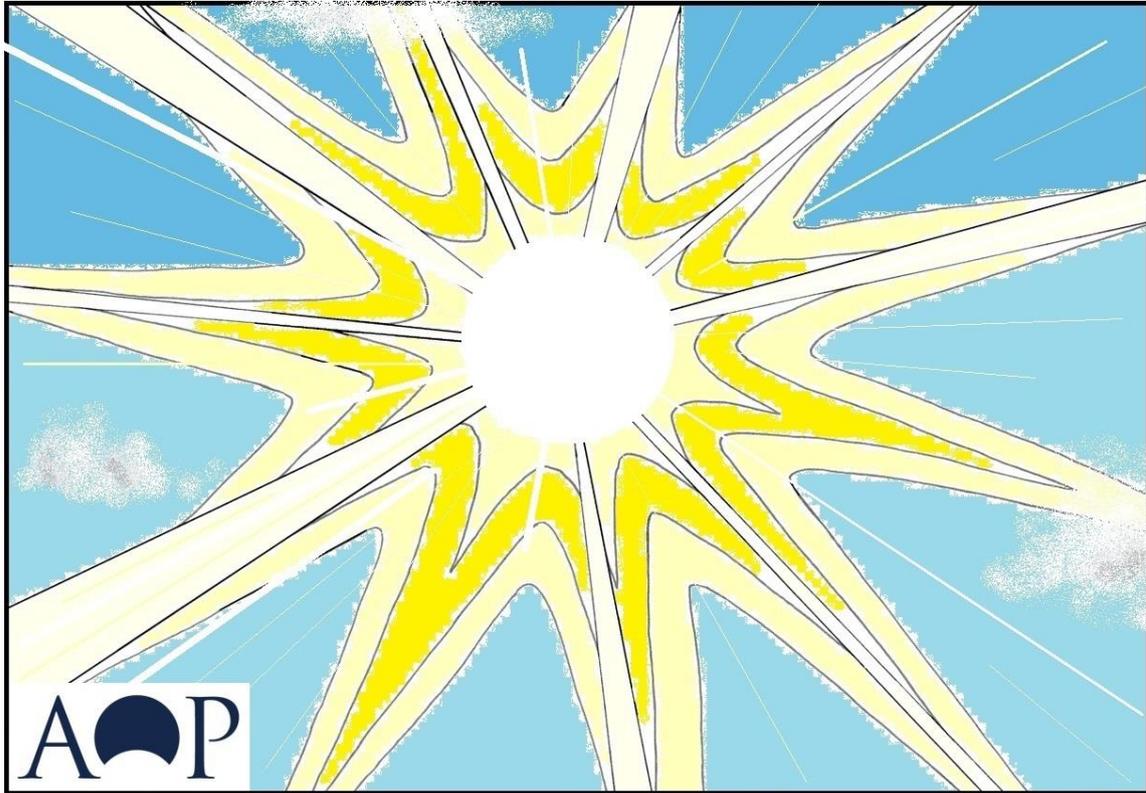Create your very best picture of the Sun and the light shining from it.

MATERIALS:

You can use *any* of the following art materials or even a mixture of them to create your solar masterpiece:

- o Colouring pencils (TIP: these are great for creating rays of light radiating out from the Sun!)
- o Felt tips pens/markers (TIP: great for strong bold colours and creating lines of light radiating out from the Sun!)
- o Poster paint (TIP: nice for building up the picture in layers and filling in with smooth bands of colour!)

o GO DIGITAL: download the drawing file and use a simple drawing program such as Microsoft Paint, and with a paint can, spray can and coloured lines, flood-fill different areas of the line drawing in your chosen colours of light and add in a few clouds. You can then admire your digital masterpiece afterwards on your screen or print out for your bedroom wall…

Example:

o Additional ideas: could you use cotton wool, grey paint +PVA glue to attach some 3D clouds after your painting is done?

TECHNIQUE:

Remember, as the source of light in the picture, the disk (round face of the Sun) needs to be the brightest part of your painting. Use contrast (ie. darker shades of colour in the sky as you move farther away from the Sun to build a glowing effect into your skyscape.

Don't forget – it's all about LIGHT!