

SolArt - A Guide for Parents and Educators 🌈

Materials

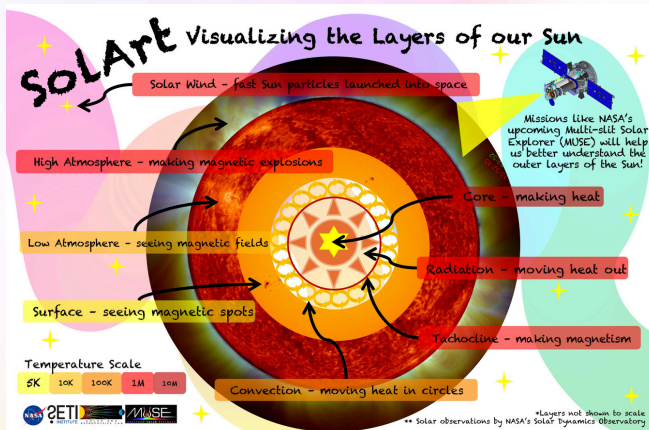
- **Paints**: DecoArt Water Marbling Paint (DecoArt)
- **Thickener**: DecoArt Water Marbling Magic Medium Water prep (DecoArt)
- **Trays**: DecoArt Water Marbling Tray 12"x15" (Blick)
- **Mulberry Paper**: FIVEZERO A4 Mulberry Paper Sheets (Amazon)
- **Drying Paper**: Recollections Cardstock Paper 12"x12" (Michaels)
- **Skewers**: Any ~6" skewer will do, but I have DecoArt Water Marbling Sticks (Blick)
- **SolArt Cards**: original MUSE Outreach design – contact rrobinson@seti.org for files



East Bay Montessori students enjoying SolArt☀️

Procedure

1. **Day Before:** prepare your **thickened water** according to the instructions on the thickener. I like to use gallon jugs to transport the water.
2. **Setup:** Use 2-3 **trays** per 6' table, pour ~1" **thickened water** into each one.
3. Ask each participant to label a sheet of **drying paper** with their name.
4. Ask each participant to pick two colors of **paint** and drip gentle drops of each color all over the water. Then, have them use their **skewers** to gently swirl the colors together. Say: *"This painting method works from the outside in, so we need to make the environment that our Sun lives in. This swirly paint represents the turbulent, messy plasma that is the solar wind."*
5. Ask each participant to choose one color of **paint** that will represent the outside layers of the Sun. Have them place 1-2 drops of that color right in the middle of the water. Say: *"Now, you'll make the outer atmosphere of your Sun in the middle of the solar wind."*
6. Repeat Step 5 twice more; once to represent the solar surface and once more to represent the solar interior. Explain each layer as participants come to it. Feel free to use **SolArt Cards** to reference each zone.
7. Ask participants to take their **skewer** and make the Sun's "rays" by dragging their **skewer** from their solar interior layer to the solar wind background. Say: *"Now, take your stick and pull the energy out from the inside out, making as many sun rays as you'd like all around your Sun."*
8. When the participants are satisfied with their Sun, gently place the **mulberry paper** on top of their design. Place the participant's **drying paper** between you and the tray. Then, grab the two nearest corners of the **mulberry paper** and gently drag it out of the water, carefully setting it onto the **drying paper**.
9. Set the art aside for at least 30 minutes to dry.
10. Distribute the **SolArt Cards** for more information on the Sun's layers and NASA's MUSE mission ☀️



Want to learn the science behind SolArt?
Check out our video here!



<https://youtube.com/shorts/8OPpT-To9M?feature=share>