



Howard Russell Butler Art Knowledge Organiser

Project

To create a piece of art work in the style of Howard Russell Butler.

This half term you will learn:

- how to use different techniques using oil pastels.
- how to use different techniques for the foreground and background, such as paint drip techniques for stars, and how to draw mountains.
- how to use perspective to create foreground and backgrounds.

Technical Knowledge

- To explain and justify why I have chosen specific tools, techniques and colours.
- To combine pattern, tone and shape.
- To develop an awareness of composition, scale and proportion in drawings.



Art Gallery- Howard Russel Butler



Northern Lights 1919

Butler captured the Aurora Borealis on August 11, 1919, while he was sketching a moonlit scene of Bald Head Cliff off the coast of Maine, where he had a studio. The following day, he made the first of two paintings based on that sketch.



Solar Eclipse 1918

At a time when photography could not yet capture the eclipsed sun, Butler's paintings provided astronomers and the public with perhaps the best record of eclipses at the time. Butler's painting was completed in the hours after the eclipse from memory and his notes of the colours.



Painting of Chromosphere of the Sun 1917

This was visible during a solar eclipse showing large-scale jets of glowing red hydrogen gas shooting out from the (eclipsed) disk of the sun. Butler observed this with binoculars and painted them using his notes of their colour.

Howard Russell Butler

Howard Russell Butler (1856 – 1934)

The first president and founder of the American Fine Arts Society, Howard Russell Butler was elected to the National Academy of Design in 1902.

He was especially known for his paintings of landscapes and solar eclipses.

Butler developed his shorthand painting technique even before he began the solar eclipse paintings. He found a brief notation approach useful to capturing other transient effects in nature, such as the colours of the clouds or the aurora.



Key Vocabulary

Background	The furthest element away. This can offer appear less bright in colour and is less detailed.
Cross Hatching	Use overlapping short strokes of different colours to create a visual mix of the colours.
Dry blending	The process of working one pastel into another by simply drawing over the first colour.
Foreground	Part of the picture closest to you is the foreground. It should be larger, brighter and contain more detail.
Midground	The ground closer than the background but further away than the foreground.
Oil blending	Blending oil pastel colours together using cotton wool or cotton buds with baby oil on them.
Scumbling	Building texture in pastel, use small marks that overlap each other in all directions.
Sgraffito	Using a light pastel colour as a base, use darker pastels over the top and scratch off the darker layer using a toothpick to reveal the lighter colour.
Tinting	Create a lighter version of a colour (tint) by adding white on top of it.