

LOOKING UP AND OUT

AT THE BUS



WA1933.7 John Constable, 'Study of Clouds'
Image © Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford

The British artist, John Constable, was fascinated by cloud formations. He was one of the first artists to paint outside directly from nature. To accurately capture the cloud shapes and colours, he had to work quickly. Constable is estimated to have made about 100 studies of the sky as preparation for larger landscape paintings.

John Constable

"Painting is with me but another word for feeling"

make a 'skying tube'

Constable used the term 'skying' to describe the process of closely observing the sky.

To help us focus on the looking up at the sky we are going to make a 'skying tube'.

Find a cardboard tube.
The middle of a paper towel roll or a tin foil roll work well.



tip

If you can't find a ready made tube, you can make your own by rolling a piece of card and sticking it.

PERSONALISE YOUR SKYING TUBE BY DECORATING IT

Use string, wool or ribbon to create a strap to hang around your neck.



Add colour to the outside of your tube using pens, pencils, paint, tape or stickers.



WHAT CAN YOU SEE?

SPEND SOME TIME LOOKING THROUGH YOUR SKYING TUBE. LOOK UP AND DOWN, INTO THE DISTANCE AND CLOSE UP. IF YOU CAN, GO OUTSIDE AND LOOK AROUND. RECORD FOUR VIEWS BY DRAWING IN THE CIRCLES BELOW

Note: do not look directly at the sun



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With thanks to the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, which houses the Constable and Ruskin paintings

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WA.RS.ED.005, John Ruskin, 'Study of Dawn, purple clouds'
Image © Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford



TIME OF DAY?

MATERIALS?

SPEED?

TIME OF YEAR?

MOOD?

PLACE?

John Ruskin was another artist who painted cloudsapes. How does this study differ from Constable's? Are there any similarities?

"There is no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather"

John Ruskin



tip

Remember, you are the artist, so you can decide what you want to draw.

You are not making a painting for display, so you do not need to worry about mistakes. You are recording your own observations and responses.

CREATE A 'SKYING DIARY'

- 1 First make a mini concertina sketchbook using the instructions sheet.
- 2 Now decide how you want to use your diary. Will you complete one page each day, or will you do a page each hour?
- 3 You may choose to use your 'skying diary' to record the sky outside your window, or go outside and do the drawing in a different place each day.
- 4 When you start your 'skying diary' you may want to record other information alongside what you can see above you. You might choose to write the date and time on the back of each page, or some notes about things that you thought or felt whilst drawing.



FURTHER IDEAS

Research the art of Veja Celmins for inspiration. She makes extraordinarily detailed paintings and prints of the night sky, oceans and spider webs.

did you know?

Nephology is the name for the study of clouds. Different types of clouds have different scientific names - can you find these out?

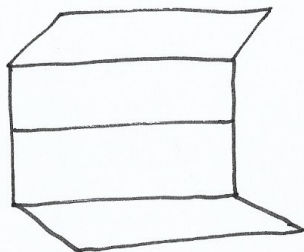
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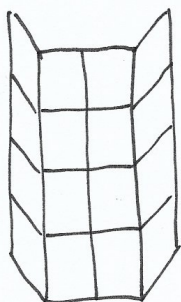
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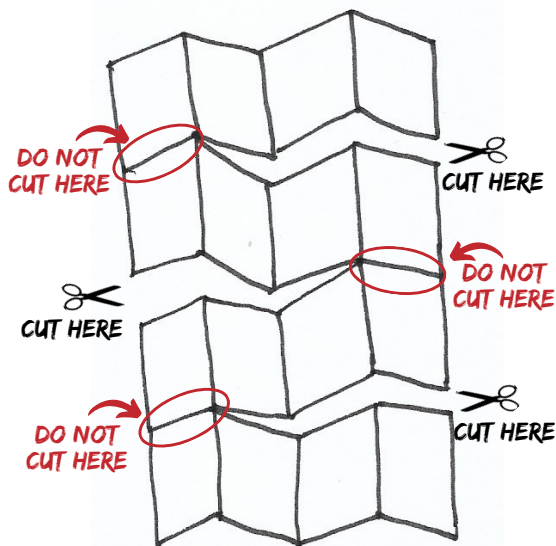
MAKE A MINI CONCERTINA SKETCHBOOK



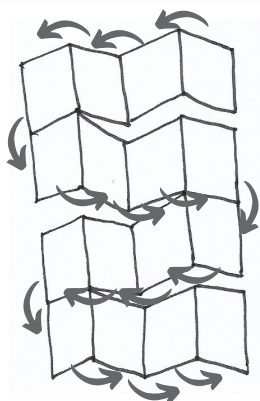
Take an A4 piece of paper (or A3 if you have it) and hold it in half. Fold the two ends into the middle, then unfold.



Now fold your paper in half the other way, and fold the ends into the middle line. Unfold your paper. The page will be divided by the folds into 16 regular rectangles.



Next, cut into the paper in three places as shown. Make sure you do not cut right across the paper!



Finally, starting at one end, fold your pages back and forward in a long line to create your mini sketchbook.



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