ART ACTIVITY THREE: SETTING THE SCENE

LINK TO ENGLISH ACTIVITY 5

Learning objectives
- To use the research process to refine relevant material;
- To develop your own ideas through the gathering of other artists' ideas;
- To learn about and practice using art to represent ideas.

Resources
- paints
- pva glue
- thick paper/card to take layers of paint
- crayons
- coloured pencils
- variety of paint brushes

MAIN TASKS

Research
1. Using Activity 1 and the examples of art in Chapter 20, think about how war artists, both "official" and unofficial have responded to the war.

2. What did they record, reflect, feature in their work e.g: views of battlefields, people, landscape, objects, "reality" or dreams?

Activity
1. Using books and the Internet, make a collection of a range of different visual interpretations of the war e.g.: "realistic" imagery as opposed to abstract work.

2. Link to English Activity 5. Once you have described your own imaginary scene from the war, create it as a painting or drawing.

3. How will you interpret YOUR piece of writing in a drawing or painting? Is it about a particular battle or event or is it about how people are feeling before going into battle, during or after it? How you best express these ideas? Will you make an image containing "realistic" elements e.g.: wounded soldiers returning from battle or could you use texture and mark making to express the ideas in your piece of writing e.g.: how do you illustrate fear, hope, loss, relief, noise, death without drawing a face or body. Think about COLOUR, SHAPE, TEXTURE.

4. Here are some artists and images to research that may help you think about how you could create different moods through texture and colour.

    a. [Mark Rothko "Number 14"](#) How do the colours and shapes make you feel? Is the picture "hot" or "cold", "quiet" or "loud", "busy" or "still"? Using blocks of colour what aspect of war could you describe?

b. [Leonardo Da Vinci - A Deluge](#) c.1517. This image consists mainly of swirling lines created by using black chalk on white paper and was painted long before the horrors of modern warfare but could you use similar marks on paper to describe aspects of a battle or the chaos of war either in battle or in your head?

c. [John Constable "Sketch for Hadleigh Castle"](#) The stormy feeling has been created by adding layers of white and light grey over a background of blues, dark greys and greens. The background colours are flat compared to the busy whites that have been made by flicking the paint brush to make freehand curves and wild, diagonal lines. Constable used oil paints but you could build up layers like this by adding PVA to your water paints so that when the background colours are dry, they will be "fixed" and you can paint over the top without the lighter colours mixing into the background. You could try using crayons to make the background and paint over the top. See how the paint reacts to the crayon.