

## Pastels

One well known type of art used by many influential artists is pastels and today we had a chance to learn the process of creating the pastels colors and then painted with them. We created our own pastels by mixing pigments with a filler and gum Arabic, a polysaccharide binder. The light blue pigment came from an earlier project that we did in which we synthesized azurite.



The gum Arabic is the binder that holds each pigment together and allows it to be shaped in such a way that they can be used to draw and color with. The colors that I created were a green, a dark blue, a brown, and a light blue, my partner made the black pastel. I found it quite satisfying to be able to create the colors with which I would create my piece of art.



My idea for the artwork came from thinking of our solar system and its shape. I thought it would be fun to try and mimic the shape. The colors I used were not quite right to be used to make a solar system so I decided to make a cave by the ocean with sunlight shining in. The red is a part of a sunset and the green is the sun.

