



# J.M.W. TURNER

## KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



### Biography

-Joseph Mallord William Turner (often known as J.M.W. Turner or William Turner) was an English artist of the Romantic era.

-He is known for his expressive use of colours, his imaginative landscapes and his marine paintings.

-He is most famous for paintings such as *The Slave Ship*, *Dido Building Carthage* and *Rain, Steam and Speed*.

-He completed over 2,000 paintings and around 19,000 drawings and sketches.

-He was an intensely private man, who often behaved unusually. From 1845 onwards, he lived in near-poverty and with poor health.



-Turner lived between 1775 and 1851. He spent his whole life living in London, UK. He was born in Covent Garden, and died in Chelsea.

### Significant Works

**Dido Building Carthage (1815)**



-Dido building Carthage, or The Rise of the Carthaginian Empire is an oil on canvas painting.  
-Turner considered it his chef-d'œuvre (his greatest ever work).  
-The figure in white on the left is Dido, the first Queen of Carthage, in Ancient Tunisia. The tomb of her husband on the right of the painting shows the eventual doom of Carthage.

**The Slave Ship (1840)**



-*The Slave Ship* is an oil-on-canvas painting. It is an example of an artwork from the Romantic tradition as it emphasises the power of nature.  
-It also fits the form of a maritime painting, using inspiration from the sea to show symbolic ideas.  
-The image shows a ship sailing through a rough sea and leaving scattered slaves in the water.  
-It depicts stories from the time of victims of the slave trade being thrown overboard from ships.

**Rain, Steam and Speed (1844)**



-*Rain, Steam and Speed - The Great Western Railway* is an oil painting. As a part of the Industrial Revolution, steam trains first became widespread throughout Turner's life.  
-In the painting, Turner explores how the new technology contrasts with nature. It is commonly thought to be of Maidenhead railway bridge.

### Styles and Techniques

#### Romanticism

-Romanticism was an arts movement that took place in Europe in the late 1700s until the early 1800s.  
-It was a reaction to the Industrial Revolution, which occurred around the same time.  
-In contrast to the dominance of the Industrial Revolution, romanticism demonstrated the beauty and power of nature. It celebrated the themes of chaos and natural beauty and idealized rural life.  
-J.M.W Turner is famed for his natural landscapes, which use sweeping brushstrokes to express strong emotions and the power of nature.  
-Through colour, light and atmosphere, Turner was able to create dramatic natural images.



#### Impressionism

-Turner is also often viewed as an impressionist artist, particularly in his later work.  
-Impressionists peaked in the mid-to-late 19th Century, and aimed to create a 'moment in time' - particularly focusing on how light and movement were presented.  
-Impressionists often focused on unusual angles of everyday subjects, working quickly (before the 'moment' changed too drastically).  
Although the impressionism occurred after Turner's lifetime, he is often seen as influence on the movement.



### How do I create art like Turner?

**Step 2:** Think carefully about the different colours that you would like to use - midnight blue sky, or perhaps an orange sunset?

**Step 3:** Use your watercolours to go over the page, including the crayon. Use lots of paint!

**Step 4:** Almost like magic, the drawing that you did with crayon will appear. Think carefully about which areas are lighter and darker to reflect the light and movement of the moment in time.

**Step 1:** Take a white crayon and draw the objects in your landscape, e.g. trees, bushes, the horizon, mountains, boats.

**Things you'll need:**  
White crayon, watercolour paints, paper.

**A child's Turner-inspired watercolour landscape painting**

**Step 5:** Add any finer finishing touches to your painting and then leave it to dry.

### J.M.W Turner Timeline

<b>23<sup>rd</sup> April, 1775</b> J.M.W. Turner is born in Covent Garden, London.	<b>14<sup>th</sup> May, 1775</b> He is baptised at St. Paul's, Covent Garden.	<b>1786</b> Completes his earliest drawings at school in Margate.	<b>1790</b> Exhibits his first watercolour at the Royal Academy.	<b>1793</b> First attempts at painting in all.	<b>1800</b> His mother is moved to a hospital for the insane.	<b>1815-1819</b> Travelled around Europe. Visited Italy in 1819 - visiting Rome, Naples and Venice.	<b>1825</b> Becomes more and more eccentric and isolated.	<b>1840</b> Completes <i>The Slave Ship</i> .	<b>1845</b> His health begins to fail badly.	<b>19<sup>th</sup> Dec, 1851</b> He dies. His body is buried at St. Paul's Cathedral.
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### Key Vocabulary

Turner

England

U.K.

London

Royal Academy

Portrait

Watercolour

Romantic

Oil-on-canvas

Eccentric

Dido Building Carthage

Slave Ship

Rain, Steam and Speed

Maritime Painting