



Vincent VAN GOGH KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



Biography

- Vincent van Gogh was a Dutch painter who is among the most famous artists to have ever lived.
- In just over ten years, he created about 2,100 artworks, including about 860 oil paintings.
- He is most famous for paintings such as *Sunflowers*, *The Starry Night* and *Self Portrait with Bandaged Ear*.
- He is often described as a post-impressionist painter, using vivid colours to depict landscapes, still lifes, portraits and self-portraits.
- Van Gogh was not successful in his lifetime, and he committed suicide aged 37, after years of mental illness and poverty.



-Van Gogh lived between 1853 and 1890. He was born in Zundert in the Netherlands. In his life, he also lived in France, the UK and Belgium.

Significant Works

Sunflowers (1888)		-Van Gogh's paintings of sunflowers were amongst his most famous. He painted a total of 12 sunflowers canvasses, although the 5 in which he only used varying colours of yellow are perhaps his most famous. Through these paintings, he showed that it was possible to create a powerful image with only variants of the same colour. Van Gogh said the paintings showed 'gratitude.'
The Starry Night (1889)		- <i>The Starry Night</i> is an oil-on-canvas painting. It shows the east-facing view from his asylum window at Saint-Rémy-de-Provence. -It shows the view just before sunrise, and with the addition of an idyllic village. -It contains a vibrant, post-impressionist colour scheme. Experts have noted that the cosmic swirls reflect the artist's inner conflict, whilst the cypress tree on the left represents his impending death.
Self Portrait with a Bandaged Ear (1889)		This self-portrait was painted shortly after van Gogh returned from hospital, having mutilated his own ear. In the background is a woodblock print of Geishas in a Landscape, by Sato Tokyo. This shows the influence of Japonism on his art – Van Gogh employed a colourful palette (and at times, a Japanese backdrop) on many of his works.

Key Vocabulary

- Van Gogh
- Netherlands
- France
- Belgium
- Post-Impressionist
- Portrait
- Self-Portrait
- Sunflowers
- Starry Night
- Japonism
- Pointilism
- Asylum
- Mental Health
- Symbolism
- Imagery

Styles and Techniques

Post-Impressionism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Post-impressionism is the name given to an art movement that developed roughly between 1886 and 1905: it largely centered around France. -Impressionism had focused heavily on natural-looking light and colour in art, but post-impressionism rejected this, instead using bright and sometimes unnatural colours. -Both impressionist and post-impressionist focus on real-life subject matter, using thick paint and distinctive brushstrokes, however, post-impressionist artists often added geometric forms, or distorted forms, for effect. -Post-impressionists also used symbolism and abstract imagery in their work. -During his time in Paris, van Gogh had met many of the post-impressionist artists, who had a notable influence on his work. Although they each worked separately, they all contributed to the post-impressionist movement. 	
Pointilism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pointilism is a style of painting that grew from impressionism, which uses small, distinct dots of color (applied in patterns) to form an image. -The technique relies on the ability of the eye and mind of the viewer to blend the color spots to form the image. -This was not van Gogh's favourite painting style, however he did adopt it in several of his works. 	

How do I create art like van Gogh?

Step 1: Loosely trace around your hand in the bottom left corner to form the tree. Don't go into the finger spaces. Do a wavy line behind the tree for the horizon.

Step 2: Spiral in the sky using your yellow crayon. Carry the outside edge of the spiral off the edge of the page with a swoosh.

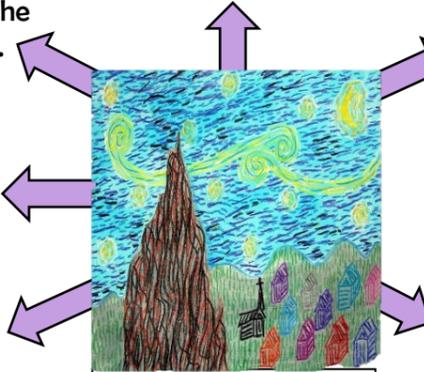
Step 3: After adding yellow and green dots for the stars, shade the night sky by 'dotting' your blue and black crayons.

Step 4: Shade in the tree using wavy up and down lines with your brown and black crayons. Then, draw little houses in the bottom right. Use straight lines to shade them in.

Step 5: Add grass around the houses using short green vertical lines. Add white lines around stars. Now, add a blue watercolour wash over the sky and a black wash over the land.

Things you'll need: Crayons (bright colours), paper, watercolour wash.

A child's van Gogh inspired 'Starry Night' style painting.



Vincent van Gogh Timeline

30th March 1853 Van Gogh is born in Zundert, in the Netherlands.	1864-66 He is sent to boarding school in Zevenburgen.	1869 Van Gogh is employed by The Hague Gallery.	1873/ 1875 He is transferred to Paris, and then London.	1876-1884 Van Gogh moves to Belgium, sharing religious beliefs with the poor, and honing his artistry skills.	1888 Moves to Arles in France.	1888 Completes <i>Sunflowers</i> painting.	1888 Cuts off his own ear and commits himself to a mental asylum.	1888 Completes <i>Sunflowers</i> painting.	1888 Cuts off his own ear and commits himself to a mental asylum.	1937 Completes <i>Starry Night</i> .	May 1890 Leaves the asylum.	July 1890 Dies after shooting himself. Buried on July 30 th .
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