

Vincent van Gogh: The Master of Colour

Learning objective: To identify key characteristics of Vincent van Gogh's art style, including his use of brushstrokes, colour, and subject matter.

Read each flashcard carefully. Try to guess the answer before looking at the other side. Use these to test your knowledge about the famous Post-Impressionist painter.

Who was Vincent van Gogh?

A famous Dutch painter who lived in the late 1800s and is known for his expressive use of colour.

What is 'Impasto'?

A technique where paint is applied very thickly to the canvas, so it stands out and creates texture.

How did Zara the zebra describe Van Gogh's brushstrokes?

She noticed they were short, thick, and energetic, often moving in swirls or lines.

What does 'vibrant' mean in the context of Van Gogh's work?

Using bright, bold, and intense colours to make the painting feel full of energy.

What is a self-portrait?

A painting an artist makes of themselves, which Van Gogh painted many times to practise his skills.

What is 'The Starry Night' famous for?

Its swirling night sky, bold yellow stars, and deep blue colours.

Did Van Gogh usually paint exactly what he saw like a photograph?

No, he painted his feelings and emotions about a scene using exaggerated colours and shapes.

What was one of Van Gogh's favourite subjects to paint?

Sunflowers, which he painted in many different arrangements using shades of yellow and orange.

What is the 'Post-Impressionism' art movement?

The style of art that came after Impressionism, focusing on emotional expression rather than just capturing light.

Why do Van Gogh's paintings look 'bumpy' or textured?

Because he used a lot of paint and did not always smooth it out, leaving the marks of his brush behind.

What colours did Van Gogh often use to show warmth?

Yellows, oranges, and reds.

What did Van Gogh often use to show contrast in his paintings?

Complementary colours, such as placing bright blue next to vibrant orange.