

Exploring the World of L.S. Lowry

Learning objective: To analyse the artistic style of L.S. Lowry and apply his techniques to represent industrial landscapes and figures.

Read the questions carefully and use your knowledge of L.S. Lowry's life and work to answer them. Think about his unique 'matchstick men' style and his focus on the industrial North of England.

L.S. Lowry (1887–1976) was a British artist famous for painting scenes of life in the industrial districts of North West England during the mid-20th century. He is best known for his 'matchstick men' figures, his depiction of terraced houses, and his use of a limited colour palette, often featuring white, ochre, red, black, and Prussian blue. His work captures the busy, often grey atmosphere of factory towns.

Word bank: Industrial · Matchstick men · Lancashire · Perspective · Palette · Urban · Chimneys

1. Identify two specific colours that L.S. Lowry frequently used in his paintings and explain why his palette was often described as 'limited'. (2 marks)

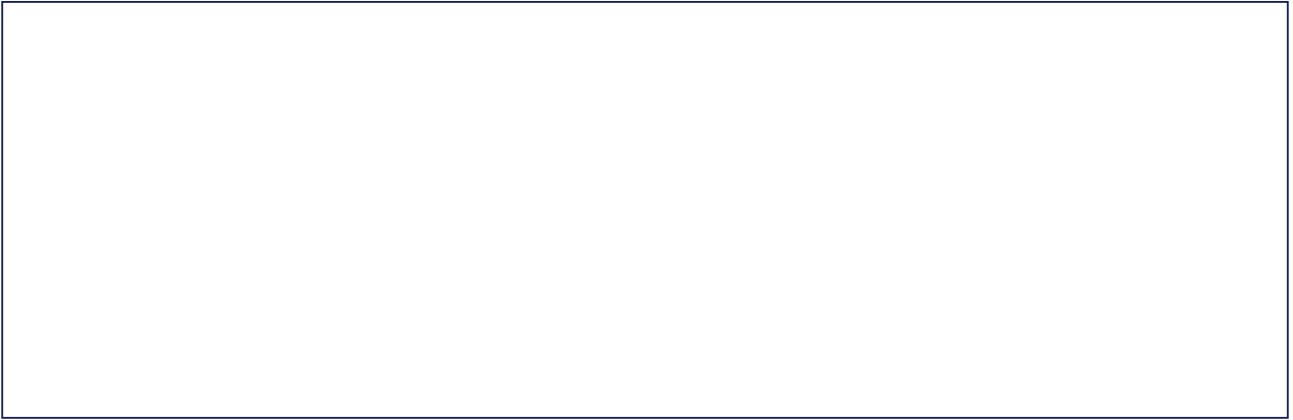
2. Why do you think L.S. Lowry chose to paint 'matchstick men' rather than highly detailed, realistic portraits of individuals? (2 marks)

3. Zara the Zebra wants to paint a scene inspired by Lowry. Describe two features of a town or city that she should include to make it look like an industrial landscape. (2 marks)

4. Lowry often used a 'bird's-eye view' or high viewpoint in his paintings. How does this technique change the way the viewer sees the crowd of people below? (2 marks)

5. If you were to create a painting of your own local area in the style of Lowry, what one building or landmark would you include to represent your community? (1 mark)

Draw: Using a piece of plain paper, create a sketch of a street scene inspired by L.S. Lowry. Include rows of terraced houses with tall chimneys in the background, and use 'matchstick men' to show people walking to work or playing in the street. Remember to focus on using a limited colour palette.



Extension challenge: Research what life was like in a Lancashire cotton mill town in the 1930s. Write a short paragraph explaining how Lowry's paintings act as a historical record of that time.