

Zara's Post-Impressionist Masterclass: The World of Van Gogh

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

Join Zara the zebra for a quick-fire quiz on one of history's most iconic painters. Read each question carefully and select the best answer or provide the short response required.

Answer Key: 1. B (1853-1890); 2. True; 3. Impasto; 4. C (Sunflowers); 5. False (he used bright, contrasting colours); 6. France; 7. Starry Night; 8. Yellow; 9. Emotion; 10. True.

Word bank: Impressionism · impasto · vibrant · landscape · emotion · perspective · canvas · oil

1. 1. Vincent van Gogh lived during which century? A) 16th Century B) 19th Century* C) 20th Century D) 18th Century (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Van Gogh often applied his paint very thickly to the canvas. (1 mark)

3. 3. What is the technical term for the thick, textured paint application style Van Gogh is famous for? (1 word) (1 mark)

4. 4. Which of these famous subjects did Van Gogh paint multiple times? A) Skyscrapers B) Elephants C) Sunflowers* D) Spaceships (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: Van Gogh preferred using dull, grey colours in all his paintings. (1 mark)

6. 6. In which country did Van Gogh create his most famous works, such as 'The Starry Night'? (1 word) (1 mark)

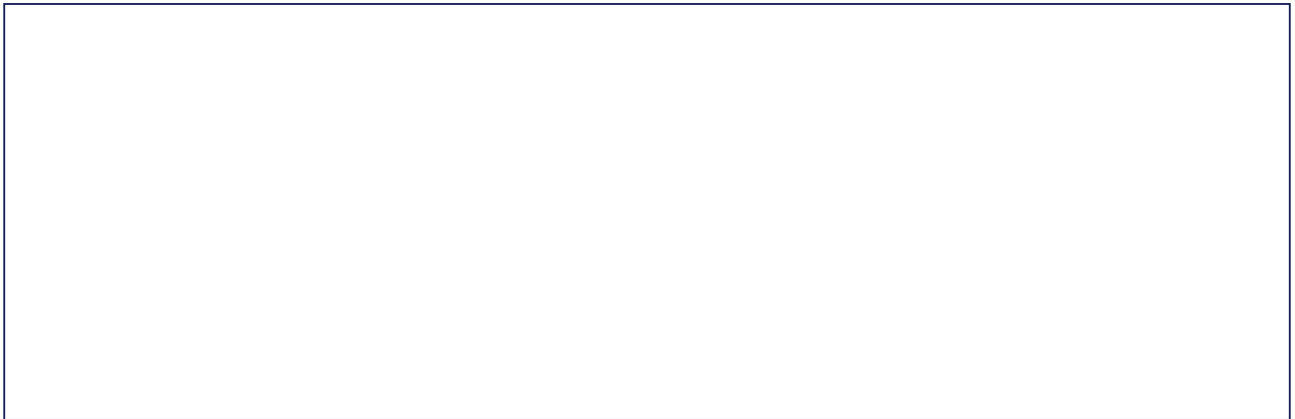
7. 7. What is the title of Van Gogh's famous painting that features a swirling night sky and a large, dark cypress tree? (2 words) (1 mark)

8. 8. Which primary colour did Van Gogh use frequently to represent sunlight and happiness? (1 word) (1 mark)

9. 9. Van Gogh often painted to express his own internal: A) Math B) Emotion* C) Biology D) Geography (1 mark)

10. 10. True or False: Van Gogh used short, visible brushstrokes to create movement in his art. (1 mark)

Draw: Using your favourite coloured pencils or pastels, create a landscape inspired by Van Gogh. Use 'impasto' technique by layering your colours thickly, and include swirling patterns in the sky to show movement.



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenges: 1. Explain why Van Gogh's choice of thick brushstrokes changes the way a viewer feels when looking at his work. 2. Compare and contrast Van Gogh's 'Starry Night' with a realistic photograph of a night sky; what are the main differences? 3. Justify your answer: Does colour in art represent reality, or does it represent mood? Use examples from Van Gogh's paintings. 4. What might happen if Van Gogh had used smooth, blended brushstrokes instead of his signature texture? 5. If you were to paint your local park in the style of Van Gogh, which colours would you choose to express your feelings about the place? 6. Critically evaluate why Van Gogh is considered a pioneer of modern art rather than just a traditional painter.