

Grade 4 Art Assessment: The Life and Style of Vincent van Gogh

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge of Vincent van Gogh's artistic techniques, color palette, and historical context.

Read each question carefully. Answer in full sentences where required. Ensure your handwriting is clear and neat.

Vincent van Gogh was a Dutch artist born in 1853. He is famous for his Mail-Impressionist style, which focused on expressing emotions rather than painting exactly what he saw. He often used thick, layered paint called impasto and bold, swirling brushstrokes to create movement on his canvases. Van Gogh was particularly interested in the relationship between colors, often using complementary colors like blue and orange to make his paintings feel more vibrant.

Word bank: Impressionism · Mail-Impressionism · Brushwork · Impasto · Vibrant · Complementary · Perspective · Emotion

1. Identify the art movement that Vincent van Gogh is associated with, as mentioned in the passage. (1 mark)

2. Explain what 'impasto' is and how it affects the texture of a painting. (2 marks)

3. Why did Van Gogh choose to use complementary colors in his artwork? Give one example of a complementary color pair. (3 marks)

4. Look at the work of Zara, our creative zebra. She says, 'I like to paint exactly what I see in a photograph.' How does this compare to the philosophy of Van Gogh? (4 marks)

5. Describe the brushwork often seen in Van Gogh's paintings. How does this technique help the viewer understand the 'mood' of the piece? (4 marks)

6. Extended Writing: Imagine you are an art critic visiting an exhibition of Van Gogh's work. Choose one of his famous paintings (such as *The Starry Night* or *Sunflowers*). Write a paragraph explaining the colors, textures, and feelings that the painting evokes for you as a viewer. Use at least three words from the word bank. (6 marks)

Draw: In the box below, create a small sketch of a landscape using 'swirling' brushstrokes, inspired by the style of Van Gogh. Label one area where you have used a vibrant color choice.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Research Task: Find out why Van Gogh often painted sunflowers. Write three sentences explaining the importance of these flowers to him.