



## Vincent Van Gogh



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| <b>Occupation</b> | Painter  |
| <b>Born</b>       | March 30 <sup>th</sup> 1853, Zundert, Netherlands            |
| <b>Died</b>       | July 29 <sup>th</sup> 1890, Auvers-sur-Oise, France (age 37) |
| <b>Art style</b>  | Post-impressionist, modern art                               |

### Vincent Van Gogh's Life

Vincent Van Gogh was born in the Netherlands in 1853. His father, Theodorus Van Gogh, was a pastor and his mother, Anna Cornelia Carbentus, was an artist. Vincent had many siblings: two brothers and three sisters. Van Gogh's upbringing was very religious and cultured because of his family. He was very emotional and he did not have a great deal of self-confidence. This might have been because he was a 'replacement child.' He was born a year after the death of his brother, who was also named Vincent. He even had the same birthday. Although he enjoyed drawing from the time he was a young boy, Vincent had a number of other jobs before he finally settled on becoming an artist full-time. He worked as a teacher in London and then, following that, as a minister. He also worked in a book store for a time and in an art gallery. It was around the age of 27 Van Gogh decided to devote himself completely to art.

### Inspiration

Van Gogh spent a lot of his life travelling across Europe. He went to France, Belgium and England. When he spent time in London, he was inspired by all the art work he saw in different art galleries. Because his brother, Theo, worked in an art gallery, he introduced Van Gogh to many different types of art. What inspired him the most was painters, who painted everyday life.





### Van Gogh's Health

Van Gogh struggled with mental health problems. This meant that, at times, he would feel very angry, or sad and was unable to control these strong emotions. Sometimes, he would harm himself and have blackouts. Van Gogh used painting as a way to express his emotions and a way to help with his mental health. Unfortunately, because of the time of Van Gogh's life, he did not get the help he



needed because the understanding of mental health was not the same back then as it is today. Because of this, he felt alone and later died by suicide at the early age of 37.

### **Famous work**

| Starry Night (1889)   | The Bedroom (1888)  | Irises (1889)  | Sunflowers (1888)   |
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### **Interesting facts about Vincent Van Gogh**

- Sometimes, he would get so obsessed with a painting, that he would often forget to eat and because of this had poor health.
- Even though Van Gogh is one of the world's most famous artists, it is believed he only sold one piece of artwork during his lifetime.
- In some of his self-portraits he detailed a bandage on his ear from when he had purposely cut it following an argument with another painter (Paul Gauguin)
- From November 1881 to July 1890 (less than 10 years) Van Gogh produced close to 900 paintings.
- *Starry Night*, arguably his most famous work, was painted in an asylum at Saint-Remy-de-Provence, France.

### **Example Questions**

1. Can you name three of Van Gogh's most famous pieces of artwork?
2. Where was Vincent Van Gogh from?
3. Van Gogh was an impressionist artist – what does this mean?
4. What made Van Gogh's life difficult?

### **Challenge**

Using the impressionist style of painting, recreate your own landscape/still life painting using paints and tools of your choosing. This could be a place, which has a special meaning to you, or a place you have visited. You might chose to do with from real-life, or from a photograph.