

Van Gogh

(van-GO) - Dutch
Post Impressionist

1853 – 1890

37



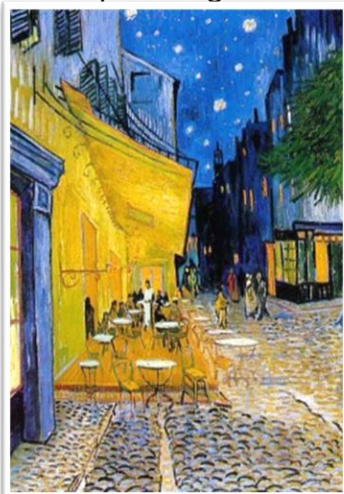
Post Impressionism – an extension of Impressionism while rejecting some limitations.

Artists continued using vivid colors, distinctive brush strokes and thick paint application, but were more inclined to emphasize geometric forms, distort form, and use unnatural or arbitrary color for expressive effect.

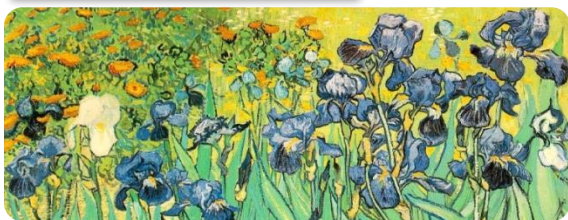
Van Gogh discovered painting after he had tried other professions including being a missionary. He did not begin painting until his late twenties, completing many of his best-known works during the last two years of his life. He was not well known during his lifetime, but today he is one of the most famous painters of all time.

Almost all of van Gogh's paintings were created in the last ten years of his life. In just over a decade, he produced more than 2,100 artworks, consisting of 860 oil paintings and more than 1,300 watercolors, drawings, sketches and prints. He often worked day and night without stopping, spending all of his money on paint, and even forgetting to eat. He died at the age of 37 from a gunshot wound, generally accepted to be self-inflicted.

He was very ill (mentally and physically) during the final years of his life. Van Gogh's paintings are filled with color and swirling images. One way that Van Gogh showed motion in his work was to make lines of color spreading out into the background, swirling in concentric rings or circles.



Pair of Shoes, 1888 (35). Self-portrait, 1889 (36), shows the artist's head from the right, the side with the unamputated ear. The Potato Eaters, 1885 (32), is considered his first major work, the culmination of several years' work painting peasant character studies. He used mostly browns and dark colors at this time. 1888 (35): The Yellow House, where he lived with Paul Gauguin, Vase with Twelve Sunflowers, Gauguin's Armchair, Van Gogh's Chair, The Café Terrace. 1889 (36): Starry Night, Irises, Self-portrait with Bandaged Ear. Wheatfield with Crows, 1890 (37).



What Do You Remember?

1. Even though Van Gogh was a prolific painter, creating over _____ pieces of art in his last _____ years, he only sold one painting during his lifetime. It was called _____ and sold for \$ _____. Today, one Van Gogh painting can sell for _____ of \$.
2. Another artist who lived with Vincent for part of his life, and who he had some disagreeable times with was _____. They lived in a _____ and to decorate it for his housemate's arrival Vincent painted and hung pictures of _____ (type of flower).
3. Van Gogh was a prolific self-portraitist, painting himself _____ times in three years. Most of the paintings show his head from the side opposite his mutilated _____.
4. In 1990, _____ (name of Van Gogh painting) became the most expensive painting ever sold when it was bought by a Japanese businessman for \$ _____.
5. What do you know of Vincent's spiritual journey? _____

Wheatfield with Crows, 1890.

Historical Timeline

What

- 1844 – Morse's **telegraph** used for first time
- 1851, 52 – **Sewing machine, Elevator**
- 1857 – **Germ theory** of disease
- 1859 - 64 – **Steamroller, Pasteurization**
- 1867 – Nobel invents **dynamite**
- 1875 – **Bell** invents **telephone**
- 1880 – **Edison's** electric **light**

Who

- 1804 – 1849 – Johann **Strauss**
- 1833 – 1897 – Johannes **Brahms**
- 1833 – 1896 – Alfred **Nobel**
- 1856 – 1939 – Sigmund **Freud**
- 1879 – 1955 – Albert **Einstein**
- 1879 – 1953 – Joseph **Stalin**
- 1882 – 1945 – F.D. **Roosevelt**

Quiz Answers:

1. *2100, 10, 1, The Red Vineyard, \$80, Millions.*
2. *Paul Gauguin, yellow house, sunflowers.*
3. *37, right, ear.*
4. *Portrait of Dr. Gachet, \$82.5 million.*
5. *From Wikipedia: Van Gogh's religious zeal grew until he felt he had found his true vocation. To support his effort to become a pastor, his family sent him to Amsterdam to study theology in May 1877, where he prepared for the entrance exam with his uncle Johannes Stricker; a respected theologian who published the first "Life of Jesus" in the Netherlands. Van Gogh failed the exam and left his uncle Jan's house in July 1878. He then undertook, but failed, a three-month course at a Protestant missionary school in Laeken, near Brussels. In January 1879, he took a temporary post as a missionary in the coal-mining district of Borinage in Belgium. Taking Christianity to what he saw as its logical conclusion, van Gogh lived like those he preached to, sleeping on straw in a small hut at the back of the baker's house where he was staying. The baker's wife reported **hearing van Gogh sobbing at night in the hut. His choice of squalid living conditions did not endear** him to the appalled church authorities, who dismissed him for "undermining the dignity of the priesthood." *From geheugenvannederland.nl: From 23 -27, Van Gogh was exceptionally interested in the Bible. He later described this period as "a few years which I find hard to understand myself, when I was confused by religious ideas – by a sort of mysticism." [letter 432]. Faith played an important role in Van Gogh's life. This was true even after his youthful period of religious fanaticism ended and he rejected the church. He quoted the French author Michelet (though he attributed the statement to Victor Hugo): "Religions pass, but God remains." [letter 294]**