

VINCENT VAN GOGH



Vincent Van Gogh was a Dutch painter.

EARLY LIFE

He was born on 30th March 1853 in the village Groot-Zundert in the Netherlands. His father was Theodorus van Gogh (a Dutch reformed minister) and his mother was Anna Carbentus. He grew up with 5 siblings: 2 brothers named Theo and Cor; and 3 sisters Elisabeth, Anna and Willemina.

He worked on his art from a young age. He was taught art by Constantijn C. Huysmans - who was an artist from Paris - at his middle school Willem 2nd College.

He decided to study and refine his skills at the Academie Royale des Beaux-Arts in Brussels.






CAREER AS AN ARTIST

Today, Vincent van Gogh is one of the world's most famous painters although, when he was alive, he only sold two paintings. His brother Theo worked in an art gallery and introduced Van Gogh to a diverse range of artists.

Vincent Van Gogh was very poor; he hardly had enough money to eat. His brother had to send him money to be able to buy paints and supplies. He worked as a shop assistant, a supply teacher and a missionary for the church. He worked for his uncle as an art dealer from 1869 to 1876 where he travelled to London and Paris.

He was 27 when he decided to pursue art as a career. In total he created around 2,100 pieces of art. He died in 1890 at the young age of 37. He had suffered with his mental health.

TIMELINE OF HIS MOST FAMOUS PIECES

				
1885 The Potato Eaters	1888 Sunflowers	1889 Starry Night	1889 The Bedroom	1890 Farm near Auvers



WHAT DID HE PAINT?

Van Gogh enjoyed painting portraits and landscapes, especially of places he'd visited. In 1883 he started to use oil paints and watercolors. He is famous for using bright colors and bold brush strokes. In his later work, he painted in a style called Post-Impressionism, a style of painting using dabs of paint and visible brush strokes.

While living in France, he loved the colour yellow: he lived in a yellow house and this is when he painted Sunflowers for his artist friend Paul Gauguin who came to stay with him. He painted his doctor's portrait Doctor Gachet, a picture which sold for £63,000,000, one of the most expensive paintings ever sold.

FIND OUT MORE

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z8fgkqt>

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. What year was he born?
2. What year did he paint sunflowers?
3. What style did he paint in?
4. How many pieces of art did he sell whilst he was alive?
5. What capital cities did he travel to whilst an art dealer?