






Art and Design Knowledge Organiser - Year 5

Topic: Painting / Vincent van Gogh

Key Vocabulary

palette	The range of colours used by a particular artist or in a particular picture.
hue 	Any colour on the colour wheel. It also refers to the dominant colour in a colour family, so Indigo, Cobalt and Navy are all blue hues.
tint 	Tints are achieved by adding white to a hue. The white paint lightens the hue and gives it a soft, tranquil appearance. Pastel colours are a good example of tints.
tone 	Tones are made by adding grey to a hue. A pure grey, which is a mixture of only black and white, will tone down the brightness of a hue.
shade 	A shade is a hue with black added to it to darken it. Black is a very intense pigment and can easily overpower the hue it is added to. It is best to add black paint in very small, gradual amounts when creating a shade.
Impressionism	Developed in France from the early 1860 by Claude Monet and other Paris-based artists. It is based on the practice of painting outdoors and spontaneously 'on the spot' rather than in a studio from sketches. Main impressionist subjects were landscapes and scenes of everyday life.
impasto 	Impasto refers to an area of thick paint or texture in a painting. A painting in which impasto is a prominent feature can also be said to be painterly. This term means that the artist is making full use of the qualities of the paint.
Post-Impressionism	The work or style of a varied group of late 19th-century and early 20th-century artists including van Gogh, Gauguin, and Cézanne. They reacted against the naturalism of the Impressionists to explore colour, line, and form, and the emotional response of the artist.



Knowledge:

Develop knowledge of Vincent van Gogh and his artwork, creating original pieces of artwork that use a range of painting skills including brush techniques and use of colour.

To master painting skills:

- Sketch (lightly) before painting to combine line and colour.
- Create a colour palette based upon colours observed in the natural or built world.
- Use the qualities of watercolour and acrylic paints to create visually interesting pieces.
- Combine colours, tones and tints to enhance the mood of a piece.
- Use brush techniques and the qualities of paint to create texture.
- Develop a personal style of painting, drawing upon ideas from other artists.

To take inspiration from the greats:

- Give details (including own sketches) about the style of some notable artists, artisans and designers.
- Show how the work of those studied was influential in both society and to other artists.
- Create original pieces that show a range of influences and styles.

Key Facts

Vincent Willem van Gogh (1853- 1890)

- A Dutch painter who painted landscapes, portraits and still life.
- He only painted for about 10 years, but created more than 2000 artworks using mostly oil paints. It was only following his death that his artwork became sought after.
- He was very religious and his ambition was to become a pastor, but he failed the exams needed.
- In 1885, he produced his first major work, called 'The Potato Eaters' (shown on the left). His work at this time was sombre and he used dark, earthy colours.
- In 1886, van Gogh moved to Paris, where he discovered the work of the French Impressionists.
- He began using bright, contrasting colours, such as blue and orange, and painting the local landscape.
- Van Gogh moved to the South of France, where he was inspired by the strong sunlight and created brightly coloured artworks in a style of painting that he would become famous for.
- This style of painting became known as 'Post-Impressionism'.
- Van Gogh became mentally ill, cut off his own ear and had to spend a lot of time in hospital. He started painting in swirls and created his best known painting, 'The Starry Night'.
- Unfortunately, van Gogh never returned to full health, and died aged just 37.



'The Starry Night' (1889)



The painting is van Gogh's impression of the view from his hospital room. He used many different tones of blue to give a feeling of depth. In the top right-hand corner, there is the moon and to the left of the centre is the planet, Venus. The other circles are stars. The sky and the hills look almost like rolling waves, creating a sense of movement. The dark shape at the front of the painting is a cypress tree and there are lights visible in some of the windows of the houses in the village. Although he painted the picture in France, the church steeple is similar to churches in the Netherlands where van Gogh grew up.