#### John Constable

#### What did John Constable create?

John Constable was a famous English painter best known for his beautiful landscapes. He painted scenes of the countryside, especially around his home in Suffolk. His artwork often shows fields, rivers, clouds, trees, and farms — all in great detail.



### 🕹 Childhood

- John was born on **11 June 1776** in East Bergholt, Suffolk, England.
- His father, **Golding Constable**, was a wealthy corn merchant who owned Flatford Mill.
- John had **six siblings**, but one of his younger brothers, Abram, died young.
- He often explored the countryside and sketched what he saw, even as a small child.
- He showed an interest in art early, but his parents hoped he would join the family business.
- Constable sometimes copied pictures from books and admired landscape prints.
- His mother encouraged his artistic talents and supported his decision to pursue art.

## Education

- At age 23, John convinced his family to let him become a painter rather than run the mill.
- In 1799, he enrolled at the **Royal Academy Schools** in London to study art formally.
- He studied life drawing and classical sculpture, as well as old master paintings.
- He admired works by Claude Lorrain, Thomas Gainsborough, and Peter Paul Rubens.
- He took sketching trips to the Lake District and Wales to study real landscapes.

- Constable strongly believed in working *from nature*, rather than imagination alone.
- He created oil sketches *outdoors*, which was unusual at the time but helped him capture changing skies and weather.

# 💈 Career

- Constable painted rural life and scenery in Suffolk, often referred to as "Constable Country."
- His masterpiece **The Hay Wain** won a gold medal at the Paris Salon in 1824.
- His work was **more popular in France** than in England during his lifetime.
- He refused to idealise nature, choosing instead to paint clouds, mud, and weather honestly.
- In 1816, he married **Maria Bicknell**, despite her family's disapproval of his uncertain income as an artist.
- Sadly, Maria died in 1828, and Constable wore black for the rest of his life.
- In 1829, he was made a full **Royal Academician**, a major recognition of his skill.
- He also gave **public lectures on landscape painting**, helping others understand its importance.
- His later works became moodier and darker, especially after his wife's death.
- Today, he is considered one of Britain's greatest landscape painters, and his work helped inspire the **Impressionist movement** in France.

# 🧏 Artwork

- John Constable became known for painting the landscapes of "Constable Country" — especially the River Stour and Flatford Mill.
- His work was not popular in England at first, but it was loved in France.
- He became a Royal Academician in 1829 a great honour for any artist.
- Later in life, he also gave lectures on landscape painting and art.

## Famous Artworks



The Hay Wain



Flatford Mill



The Vale of Dedham

Arts Award Initiative Ltd

### Salisbury Cathedral from the Meadows



### Solution of the second second

- "Painting is but another word for feeling."
- "The sound of water escaping from mill dams... willows, old rotten planks... I love such things."
- "I never saw an ugly thing in my life."
- "The world is wide, no two days are alike, nor even two hours."