

Katsushika Hokusai

What did Hokusai create?

Katsushika Hokusai was a Japanese artist best known for his **woodblock prints, paintings, and illustrations**. His most famous artworks include landscapes, especially **Mount Fuji**, and powerful **ocean waves** with boats and sea creatures.

Childhood

- He was born in **1760** in **Edo**, Japan (now Tokyo).
- His father was a mirror-maker for the shogun (military ruler).
- He started drawing around the age of **6**.
- As a child, he was fascinated by nature and the sea.

Education

- He became an apprentice to a **wood-carver** at age **14**.
- He joined the **Katsukawa art school**, where he trained in **ukiyo-e** (pictures of the floating world).
- He studied styles from **China, Japan**, and even **Europe**.
- Hokusai often **changed his name** to mark new stages in his learning — he used over **30 names**!

Career

- He worked as a **printmaker, illustrator, and book artist** for over **70 years**.
- He created the famous "**Thirty-Six Views of Mount Fuji**" series.
- His work inspired **Impressionist** artists like Monet and Van Gogh.
- Even at age **89**, he was still drawing and said he was just beginning to understand art!

Quotes from Hokusai

"From the age of six, I had a mania for drawing the shapes of things."

"If I go on trying, I will surely understand them still better by the time I am ninety."

Artworks

The Great Wave off Kanagawa (a series of paintings)



Fine Wind, Clear Morning (Red Fuji)



Yoro waterfall in Mino Province



Cranes (series of paintings)

