

## Rembrandt Activity Pack

### Create Your Own Masterpieces in the Style of Van Rijn

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#### Who Was Rembrandt?

Rembrandt van Rijn was a Dutch painter from the 1600s who became famous for his realistic portraits and clever use of light and shadow (called *chiaroscuro*). He painted everyday people, important events, and even himself, more than 80 times!

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#### Materials You Might Need:

- Drawing pencils (HB, 2B, 4B)
  - Eraser and sharpener
  - Black pen or marker
  - Charcoal or soft pastels (optional)
  - Watercolours or acrylic paints
  - A mirror for self-portraits
  - Thick paper or a sketchbook
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#### Activity 1: Shadow Search

**Objective:** Learn how Rembrandt used light and shadow.

#### **Instructions:**

1. Look around your home or classroom and find an object lit by one lamp or window.
2. Sketch it quickly, focusing on where the shadows fall.
3. Use your pencil to darken shadow areas and leave the light areas white.

**Top Tip:** Cover half of your face with shadow using a lamp and try drawing yourself!

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## Activity 2: Create a Self-Portrait Like Rembrandt

**Objective:** Explore facial expression and mood.

**Instructions:**

1. Sit in front of a mirror and make an emotional expression (sad, thoughtful, surprised).
2. Light one side of your face with a lamp.
3. Draw or paint your self-portrait using dark shades for the shadows and lighter tones for the lit areas.

**Challenge:** Can you add little wrinkles or skin texture like Rembrandt?

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## Activity 3: Paint a Scene with a Story

**Objective:** Tell a story using facial expressions and body language.

**Instructions:**

1. Choose a moment from a story or history (like a king receiving a message, or someone discovering something).
2. Sketch the scene with one person as the main focus.
3. Use light to make that person the brightest part of the painting.

**Extension:** Add dramatic expressions and costumes like Rembrandt did!

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### Bonus Ideas to Try:

- Make your own *etching* using a ballpoint pen pressed onto foil.
- Use brown paper and white chalk for highlights—just like old masters.
- Turn a friend into a “Rembrandt character” by dressing them in a cloak and drawing them.