

Vincent Van Gogh

What did he create?

- Vincent van Gogh was a famous artist known for his bright, swirling paintings full of emotion.
- He created over 2,000 works of art, including famous paintings like *The Starry Night*, *Sunflowers*, and *The Bedroom*.
- His artwork often shows strong brushstrokes and bold colours, especially yellows, blues, and greens.
- Van Gogh loved painting landscapes, flowers, and portraits, always trying to show his feelings through his art.



Childhood

- Vincent van Gogh was born in 1853 in the small village of Groot-Zundert in the Netherlands.
- He was the eldest of six children, and his family was religious. His father was a preacher, and Vincent's family was very close-knit.
- As a child, Vincent was shy and introverted, and he often struggled with making friends. He preferred spending time alone, either reading or exploring nature.
- Vincent had a difficult relationship with his mother, who had high expectations for him, but his brother, Theo, was always a source of support and encouragement throughout his life.
- He was a sensitive child, and this sensitivity would influence much of his artwork later on. He was also deeply affected by the death of his younger brother, which he later expressed in his art.
- When he was a child, Vincent also loved drawing and sketching, often creating images of the people and animals around him. But he was not encouraged to pursue art at first, as his family had other plans for him.

Education

- Vincent van Gogh was not initially interested in becoming an artist. He went to school to study theology and worked briefly as a preacher in a poor mining village. However, he was unhappy in this career and struggled to connect with others.

- At the age of 27, Vincent decided to become an artist. He began to study drawing on his own, using books and teaching himself by copying other artists' works.
- He also took drawing lessons at the *Academy of Fine Arts* in Brussels and later attended classes at the *Ecole des Beaux-Arts* in Paris. However, Vincent felt uncomfortable with the formal training and found it difficult to follow traditional techniques.
- He later moved to Paris and spent time with other artists, including his brother Theo, who was an art dealer. In Paris, he saw the work of the Impressionists and became very inspired by their use of light and colour.
- Despite not being formally trained, Vincent spent much of his time studying and experimenting with different styles. He spent hours working on his paintings and refining his technique.
- Vincent was especially influenced by artists like Rembrandt and Jean-François Millet, as well as the vibrant colours of the Japanese woodblock prints that were popular in Paris at the time. His education was mainly self-directed, driven by his passion for expressing his inner feelings through art.

Career

- Vincent van Gogh's career as an artist began later in life, but he created a huge body of work in a very short time.
- In 1886, he moved to Paris and started experimenting with different styles. He was influenced by the works of the French Impressionists, including Claude Monet and Edgar Degas, as well as his brother Theo's art dealer connections.
- Around 1888, Vincent moved to the south of France, where he settled in Arles. It was here that he created some of his most famous paintings, such as *Sunflowers*, *The Yellow House*, and *The Bedroom*.
- During this time, he also made friends with other artists, including Paul Gauguin. However, their friendship was strained, and after an argument, Vincent famously cut off part of his own ear.
- Vincent spent time in a mental hospital in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, where he painted *The Starry Night* while reflecting on his thoughts and feelings.
- He struggled with mental health issues throughout his life, and this deeply influenced his art. His use of vibrant colours and swirling, expressive brushstrokes became a way for him to communicate his emotions.
- He painted over 900 paintings in just 10 years! That's almost two paintings a week!

- Although he only sold one painting during his lifetime, *The Red Vineyard*, Vincent's work was very influential to future generations of artists. Today, he is considered one of the most important figures in the history of art.
- Vincent's brother Theo supported him throughout his life, both emotionally and financially. After Vincent's death in 1890, Theo continued to promote his work, and over time, Vincent became internationally famous. Now, his paintings are displayed in major art museums worldwide.

Quotes from Vincent van Gogh

- "I dream of painting and then I paint my dream."
- "I am seeking. I am striving. I am in it with all my heart."
- "For my part, I know nothing with any certainty, but the sight of the stars makes me dream."
- "There is nothing more truly artistic than to love people."

Starry Night



Sunflowers



Bedroom at Arles



Red Vineyards near Arles – the only painting that Van Gogh sold



Self Portraits

