

The Art of Vincent Van Gogh

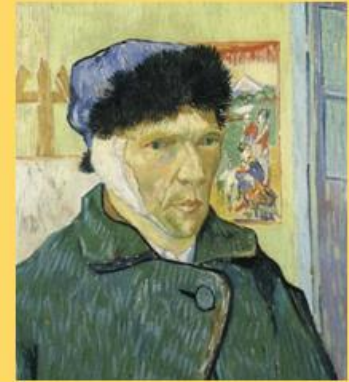
Recommended for grades 3-5

Materials: pencil, paper, crayons or markers

Who was Vincent Van Gogh?



Van Gogh was a painter. He used self-portraits as a way of practicing portraits without having to pay models to sit for him. He painted other things, too. Just wait.... You probably already know some of his paintings!

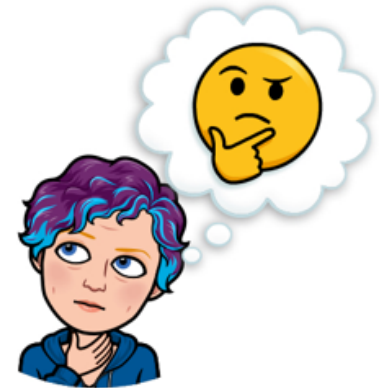


Vincent van Gogh was born on March 30, 1853, in Groot-Zundert, Netherlands. He was named after his grandfather.

He was a Post Impressionist Painter!

Wait... What does that mean?

Post-impressionists had learned about using light, shadows, and colors in their art from the Impressionists.



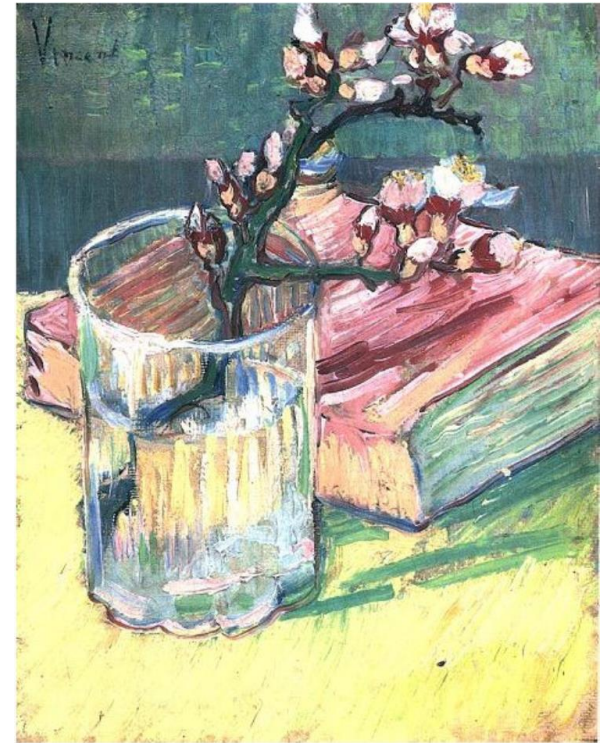
- Post Impressionists wanted to add their own new ideas to art.
- They began to try new subjects, techniques, perspectives, and shapes to express their thoughts and emotions in art.
- It was more of a period of painting rather than a style or movement. It was a time when many artists went their own way and developed their own style.

Van Gogh painted these landscapes. A landscape is a painting or photograph of an outside scene. A horizon line separates the sky from the ground. Can you find the horizon line in these landscapes?

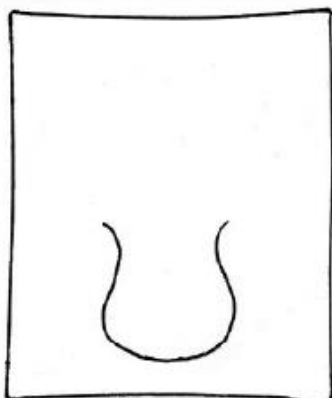


These are still lifes painted by Van Gogh.

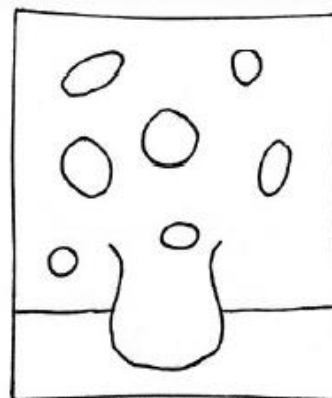
A still life depicts inanimate subject matter such as a vase of flowers.



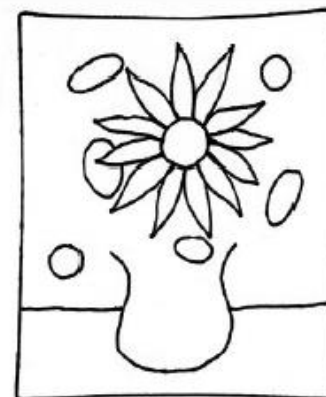
Try drawing a still life.



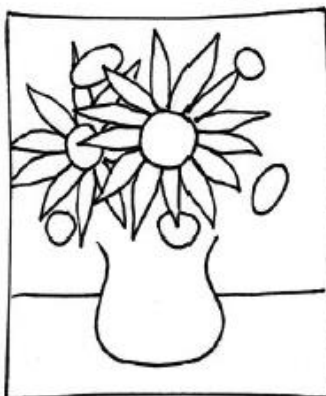
1. Draw a vase near the bottom of the page. Be sure not to touch the bottom. Don't draw the top yet.



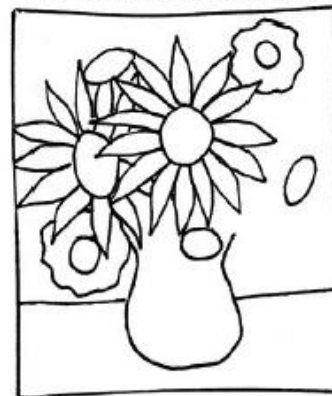
2. Draw a big circle above the opening of the vase. This is your dominant flower. Draw circles and ovals around the dominant flower. Add a table line.



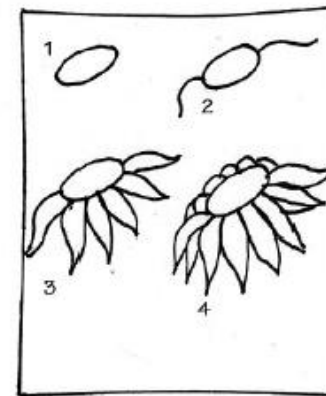
3. On your dominant flower, add petals. Don't worry if you draw over another flower center...you're suppose to!



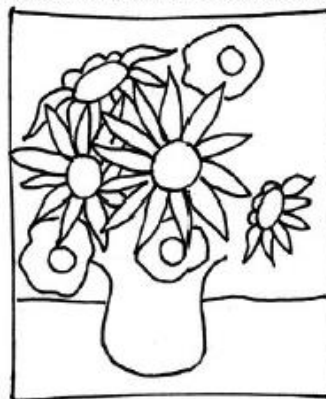
4. Draw petals on another center. If you go off the page, great! This time, see if you can hide the petals behind the big flower.



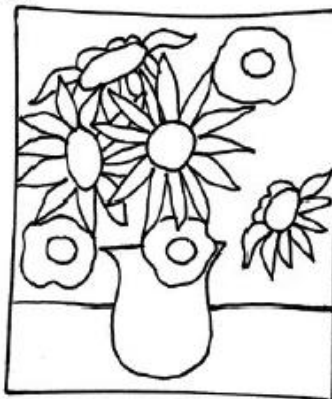
5. Add more petals, this time trying different shapes and sizes.



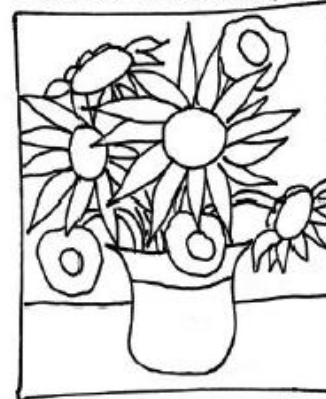
*To draw a side-ways flower, start with a squished oval and add tails on either end. Turn the tails into petals.



6. Continue to draw petals, tucking them all behind the dominant flower.

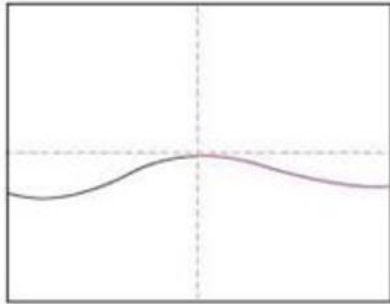


7. Draw a line to close of the vase opening. It might run into a flower, so be sure to "jump" over the flower.

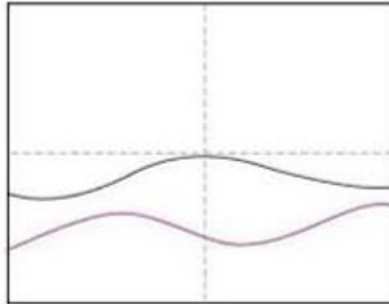


8. Finally, add stems and perhaps decorate your vase with simple lines.

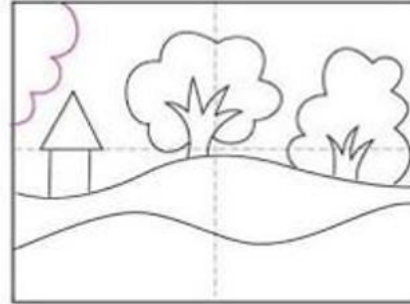
Try drawing a landscape.



Draw a horizon line



Draw another line



Draw objects in the background and middle ground



Draw smaller objects close to the horizon to show they are far away.
Draw larger objects in the middle ground and foreground to show they are closer.