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A Picture Paints a Thousand Words

Because nothing compares to seeing the work of these amazing artists, consider incorporating a WebVisit to any of the sites below in your lesson. Most are hosted by museums that have both strong educational programs and exceptional Web sites. The result is a vast collection of possible extensions. The information below should help guide your preparation, but we recommend that you review all of the works in the slide presentations before presenting these. Several artists worked with nudes and other subjects that may be inappropriate in your classroom setting. We also encourage you to respect the copyright law and not copy or otherwise use the images on these sites in a way that violates those laws.

MoMA The Museum of Modern Art

www.moma.org

This is the Web site you would expect from what is arguably the world's preeminent museum for modern art. Most of the signature works by the modern artists featured in this collection (for example Van Gogh's *The Starry Night*) are housed here. From the home page, click "The Collection" in the menu on the left-hand side of the page, then "Browse and Search the Collection." Also consider visiting the Education page (also on the left-hand menu). On this page are links to "Destination Modern Art," which is an interactive site designed for kids, and "Modern Teachers," which is a site of downloadable lessons on numerous artists and concepts.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

www.metmuseum.org/home.asp

Select Explore & Learn for links to the meat of the site: The Collection is searchable by artist and title, and most of the artists in this collection are included. One of the many engaging downloadable lesson plans in Publications for Educators is a unit on Rodin's famous sculpture *The Burghers of Calais*. The interactive (and very cool) Timeline of Art History even includes a special feature on Musical Instruments. Its direct address is http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hi/st_musical_instruments.htm.

National Gallery of Art

www.nga.gov

In addition to select Web tours of The Collection (which is also searchable), click on Education then NGA Classroom for access to numerous lesson plans. If searching by Artist, all of the following are available: Cassatt, Van Gogh, Da Vinci, Matisse, Monet, O'Keeffe, Picasso, and Seurat. Selecting Young Learners in the "Topics" dropdown will also return a selection of possible lessons.

Guggenheim Museum, New York

www.guggenheim.org

On the home page, click on the left-hand picture, which, if you hover over it, should change to read New York. Then, select The Collection and see "How to use this site." You may also click "Artist" on the left-hand side of that page for a list of all the artists in their collection. It includes a work or two by most of the modern artists featured in this collection, but is particularly extensive for Mondrian and Pollock.

Smithsonian American Art Museum

Several of the artists in this collection are well represented in the Smithsonian's collection. A visit to <http://americanart.si.edu/collections/online.cfm> will return a list of their permanent collections. View American Impressionism for works by Cassatt and Modernism and Abstraction for works by O'Keeffe. You may also search their online catalog by artist.

Another great resource on this site is the Schools and Scholars page: <http://americanart.si.edu/education/index.cfm>. There, click Classroom Resources for a list of lesson plans and tours, including one of the Harlem Renaissance.



Vinny Van Gogh

Late in the eighteen hundreds in the Netherlands,
There lived a master painter. He had artful hands.
His canvases were poppin' with the paint so thick.
A painting ev'ry day; you know that guy was quick.
His paintings nearly come to life and pull you in.
There's no one in the world who painted quite like him.

Go, go! Go, Vinny. Go, go!
Go, Vinny. Go, go!
Go, Vinny. Go, go!
Go, Vinny. Go, go!
Vinny Van Gogh!

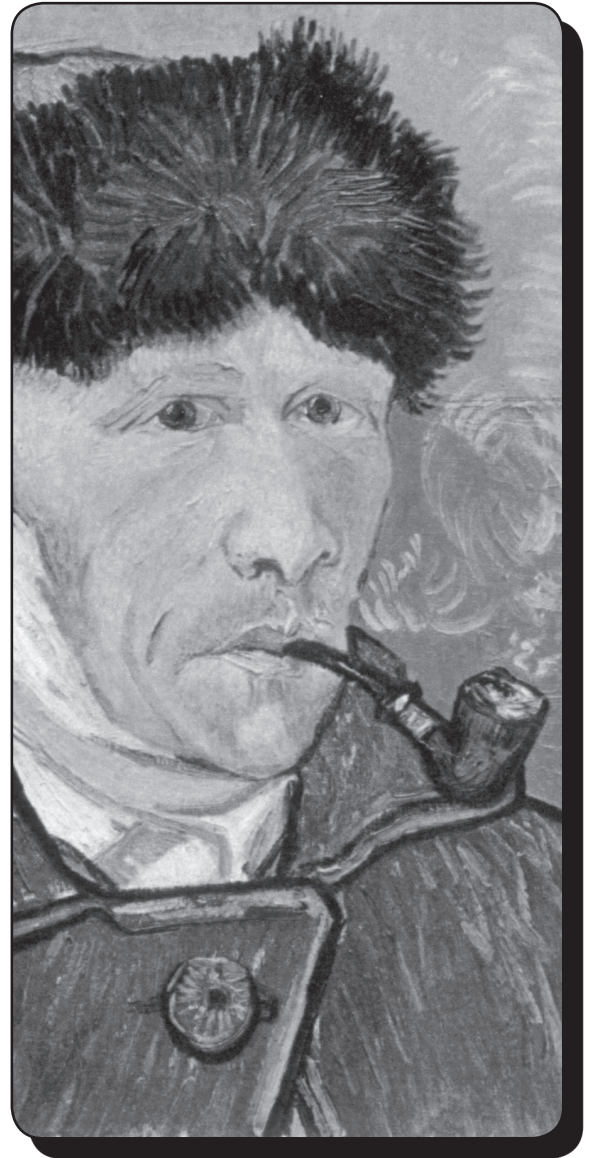
He loved the look of irises and olive trees,
And how the cypress branches billowed in the breeze.
He loved the shining sun on golden fields of wheat.
His plethora of peasant portraits can't be beat.
His sunflowers are almost real enough to hold.
His palette was unparalleled. His stroke was bold.

Go, go! Go, Vinny. Go, go!
Go, Vinny. Go, go!
Go, Vinny. Go, go!
Go, Vinny. Go, go!
Vinny Van Gogh!

His paintings from the South of France are outta sight.
And don't forget his greatest hit: "The Starry Night."
Those swirls of color dance around a starlit sky.
That Vinny had a talent no one could deny.

Yes, Vinny was inspired by the ev'ryday.
Who else could find the beauty in a stack of hay?
The simplest activities became ideal.
He even thought potato eaters had appeal.
A trip to any art museum can be a blast,
And Vinny's art can make the post-Impression last.

Go, go! Go, Vinny. Go, go!
Go, Vinny. Go, go!
Go, Vinny. Go, go!
Go, Vinny. Go, go!
Vinny Van Gogh!



Self-portrait with Bandaged Ear and Pipe, 1889

Vinny Van Gogh

Words and Music by
Mark Burrows

50s-style Rock 'n' roll ♩ = 132



1. Late
D.S. Yes,



in the eight - een hun - dreds in the Neth - er - lands, _____ there
(2.) loved the look of i - ris - es and ol - ive trees, _____ and
(D.S.) Vin - ny was in - spir - ed by the ev - 'ry - day. _____ Who



lived a mas - ter paint - er. He had art - ful hands. _____ His
how the cy - press branch - es bil - lowed in the breeze. _____ He
also could find the beau - ty in a stack of hay? _____ The



can - vas - es were pop - pin' with the paint so thick. _____ A
loved the shin - ing sun on gold - en fields of wheat. _____ His
sim - pl - est ac - tiv - i - ties be - came i - deal. _____ He



paint - ing ev - 'ry day; you know that guy was quick. _____ His
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ev - en thought po - ta - to eat - ers had ap - peal. _____ A



paint - ings near - ly come to life and pull you in. _____ There's
sun - flow - ers are al - most real e - nough to hold. _____ His
trip to an - y art mu - seum can be a blast, _____ and

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"Vinny Van Gogh" from *Yo, Leonardo!*



Vinny Van Gogh

Art Soundtrack

Supplies

- Reproduction of a Van Gogh painting

Display a reproduction of a Van Gogh painting. Invite the students to observe the many details of the painting, including objects, mood, even brush strokes. Now have the students create a soundtrack for the painting. The students can use body percussion and vocal sound to represent different aspects of the painting. One way to achieve this is to have the students imagine one sound they can create in response to the painting. Choose one student to perform his or her sound. Add another student, and another, until all the students are performing their chosen sound. This activity can be done for virtually any painting.

Circles and Swirls

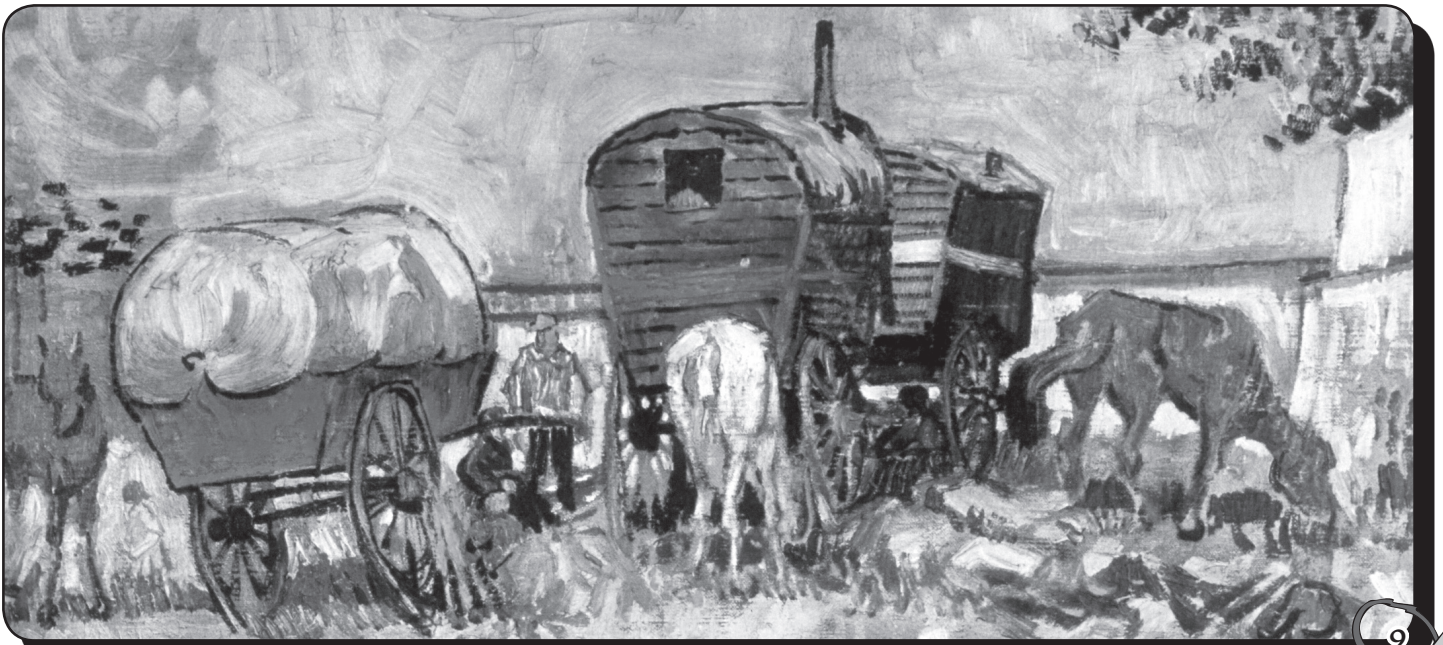
Supplies

- Several pieces of black construction paper
- Several pieces of chalk in a variety of colors

Van Gogh's paintings often contain swirls or radiating circles which seem to give his work motion and heightened intensity. Few paintings exemplify more of this swirling intensity than Van Gogh's *The Starry Night*.

Give each student a piece of black construction paper to serve as the background. Then, give each student several pieces of chalk in a variety of colors. Invite the students to create a night-sky scene with stars and a moon. Encourage the students to use swirls and radiating circles, like Van Gogh, to give their works a sense of movement. Students may use the different colors of chalk to create a landscape beneath the night sky.

As the students work, play music associated with the night sky, such as Claude Debussy's *Clair de Lune* or Gustav Holst's *The Planets*.



Encampment of Gypsies with Caravans, 1888

Vincent Van Gogh 1853–1890

Vincent Van Gogh (vahn GO) is one of the most important and well-known artists of the 19th century. He is best known for his paintings, but also excelled at drawing sketches.

Born in the Netherlands in 1853, Van Gogh was the son of a minister. The Van Gogh family was known for its involvement with religion and art. Some of Vincent's relatives were even talented artists. After his education, Vincent began working as an art dealer, work that sent him to London and Paris. This job did not work out, however, and Vincent soon moved on to other things.

Van Gogh had always loved art, and was often sketching. In 1880, he finally decided to pursue a career in art, and began painting and drawing full time. He moved from place to place, using the people and places that he experienced in each place as inspiration for his art. Van Gogh was also always studying art and learning new techniques and ideas that allowed his work to continually evolve.



Self-portrait with Bandaged Ear and Pipe, 1889

Later in his life, Van Gogh became famous for his work, and was greatly admired by many people. He lived and worked with many famous artists, and painted tirelessly. But Van Gogh was not a healthy man. He was often sick, and had frequent episodes of mental illness. In 1890, he died in Auvers-sur-Oise, France. He was only 37 years old. After his death, his work continued to be loved by countless people.

Much of Vincent Van Gogh's work is categorized as Post-Impressionist, and he is recognized as one of the pioneers of Expressionism. He produced more than 2,000 works of art, all of them drawings and paintings. Some of his most famous works include *The Potato Eaters*, *The Starry Night*, and *Portrait of Dr. Gachet*.

Did You Know?

Van Gogh's first passion wasn't painting—it was religion. He originally planned to become a preacher. But he was unable to finish his schooling, and began working as a missionary in the village of Petit Wasmes, a coal-mining town where most residents were poor and lived in horrible conditions. It soon became clear to Vincent that a religious career was not for him, and he soon left his post, moving on to art.

Van Gogh painted a lot! He produced more than 2,000 works, most of them in the last ten years of his life. During a two-year stay in Paris, he was able to paint more than 200 works. That's an average of a little more than one painting every four days!

The Potato Eaters, thought by many to be Van Gogh's best work and certainly one of his most famous, wasn't always such a hit. The painting was rejected when Vincent first painted it, and didn't become renowned until after his death. He even decided to seek professional art training after its failure!

Major Styles of the Late-19th and Early-20th Centuries

Realism

Much of the art produced in the first part of the 1800s showed beautiful people doing glamorous things. Often, these were even made-up, or fictional, subjects. Later in this century, though, some artists became interested in the lives of everyday, working people. These artists thought they should paint only “real” things—things they could see with their own eyes. Called Realists, they also thought their work should look as much like the real thing as possible, almost as if their paintings were photographs. Not coincidentally, the process of photography was developed at about the same time. A famous example of Realism is Jean François Millet’s *The Gleaners* (1857), which shows three women working in a field. Another is *The Third-Class Carriage* (c. 1862) by Honoré Daumier. Although it was never finished, this work shows the harsh conditions of a poor family traveling on a train.

Impressionism

Like the artists in the Realist movement, the Impressionists looked to modern life for their subjects, including railways and factories, which were both new technologies. But unlike the Realists, the Impressionists wanted to capture the idea, feeling, or impression of a subject rather than its exact appearance. As a result, the Impressionists focused on the shape, or form, of the things they painted, and represented them using short, broken brushstrokes and pure unblended colors. They were also very interested in light, often painting the same scene at several different times and paying careful attention to the changing shadows and colors. The

Impressionist movement began in France and most of the artists who worked in this style are French. Some of the most popular are Édouard Manet, Edgar Degas, Camille Pissarro, Auguste Renoir, and Mary Cassatt. The most famous Impressionist is Claude Monet. In fact, the name of the movement comes from the title of his 1874 painting, *Impression, Sunrise*.

Post-Impressionism

In the late 1880s, four young painters—Georges Seurat, Paul Cézanne, Paul Gauguin and Vincent Van Gogh—became frustrated with the Impressionist style in which they’d been working. They were less interested in just showing light and color, preferring to use color and especially structure and form to express emotions. Like the Impressionists, these artists painted landscapes and other natural subjects, but their goal was to represent their emotional reaction to nature. (In many ways, the work of the Post-Impressionists is about the artists sharing themselves. As Van Gogh wrote in a letter to his brother Theo, “Painters—to take them alone—dead and buried, speak to the next generation or to several succeeding generations through their work.”) To share this reaction, these Post-Impressionist painters often used intense and unrealistic colors and dramatic brushstrokes. Van Gogh’s *The Starry Night* is a great example of Post-Impressionism.

Cubism

At the start of the twentieth century, Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque created one of the first modern art styles in Paris, France. They were inspired by the Post-Impressionist painter Paul Cézanne—

Realism

Impressionism

1840

1850

1860

1870

1880



CD Tracks

Performance

1. Vinny Van Gogh
2. The Dream-world of Dalí
3. The Ever-Changing Gardens of Monet
4. Yo, Leonardo!
5. Wonderful Women of Art
6. Picasso Paints the Blues
7. Art in 3-D
8. What They Learned in School
9. Paint Us a Story, Jacob Lawrence
10. You Call That Art? (My Dog Could Do It)

Accompaniment

11. Vinny Van Gogh
12. The Dream-world of Dalí
13. The Ever-Changing Gardens of Monet
14. Yo, Leonardo!
15. Wonderful Women of Art
16. Picasso Paints the Blues
17. Art in 3-D
18. What They Learned in School
19. Paint Us a Story, Jacob Lawrence
20. You Call That Art? (My Dog Could Do It)

Bonus

21. A Guitarist Paints Like Pollock



Mixed-Media CD Information

The CD included with this collection will play in any stereo or CD player as a regular audio CD. But it also includes data files that you can access through your computer, specifically the piano/vocal scores for each song.

When you insert the CD into your computer's CD-ROM drive, you will likely get a pop-up with several options. In addition to Play/Import the CD using iTunes or Windows Media Player, there should also be an option to Open Folder to View Files. Selecting that option will display a list of all the files on the CD (one for each of the ten songs). You may copy any or all of them to your hard drive to open/print later, or double click the piece you want from that list and print it right away.

You will need the free Adobe Acrobat Reader to open these files. You may download it from www.adobe.com/downloads/. You'll find the Download link for Adobe Reader under "Players, readers, and viewers." If you have any trouble accessing these files, please contact us at service@lorenz.com.

Recording Credits:

Joey Carter – Drums, piano, percussion
Daniel Stone – Bass
Paul Metzger – Guitars
Rene Ozuna – Saxophone
Julie Dean – Vocals

Recorded, mixed, and mastered by Bart Rose at First Street Audio, Fort Worth, Texas
Produced by Mark Burrows

