VINCENT VAN GOGH (1853-1890)

Vincent Van Gogh was born in 1853 in the Netherlands. He was Dutch[1].

He had two brothers and three sisters. He was very close to his younger brother Theo.

Vincent wrote him a lot of letters and we know many things about his life because of that. Theo sent him money and encouraged him.

He started painting when he was 28 years old but he painted around 2.100 artworks[2], including around 860 oil paintings. He painted many of his best pictures in the last two years of his life.

He travelled across Europe (Belgium, England, France).

At the beginning he used **DARK COLOURS** (browns, black, dark green) to express the sadness[3] of poor handworking people ("The Potato Eaters" is an example).

He moved to France when he discovered Impressionism and became friends with the famous painter Paul Gaugin. After arguing with him he cut off a piece of his own ear.

In Arles (a town in the South of France) he began to use **BRIGHTER[4] COLOURS** and developed[5] his unique style: broken, separate brushstrokes[6], using complimentary colours (see "The Yellow House ", "The Bedroom", "Sunflowers").

He was very poor. He sold only one painting during his life and he became famous after his death.

He suffered from mental illnesses and painted his most famous artworks while he was in a mental hospital.

He painted flowers, himself (self portrait)[7] and landscapes[8] because he was too poor to pay models.

He died in 1890 and his death may or may not have been a suicide.

THE BEDROOM IN ARLES

There are 3 version of "The Bedroom":

- ✓ First version, October 1888. Oil on canvas[9], 72 x 90 cm, Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam
- ✓ Second version, September 1889. Oil on canvas, 72 x 90 cm, Art Institute of Chicago
- ✓ Third version, end September 1889. Oil on canvas, 57.5 x 74 cm, Musée d'Orsay, Paris

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[1] Olandese
[2] Opere d'arte
[3] Infelicità, tristezza
[4] brillanti
[5] sviluppò
[6] Pennellate spezzate, separate
[7] Autoritratto
[8] Paesaggi
[9] Olio su tela

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Some of Van Gogh's most famous paintings are:



Figure 1 - The Potato Eaters (1885)



Figure 2 - The Yellow House (1888)



Figure 3 - The Bedroom (1888)



Figure 4 – Self-portrait of an artist (1888)



Figure 5 - Self-portrait with a bandaged ear (1888)



Figure 6 – The Starry Night



Figure 7 - Sunflowers (1889)

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