

Art

Landscape painting

FACT: Vincent Van Gogh only sold one painting when he was alive.

1 Talk in pairs. What can you see in this painting?

This painting is called *Flatford Mill*, by John Constable, and it is a very famous example of landscape art. Landscape art shows things like mountains, hills, trees, rivers and woods. The artists usually include the sky in the picture, and sometimes the weather too.



(John Constable *Flatford Mill 'Scene on a Navigable River'* 1816–1817 © Tate)

2 Read and complete.

behind ~~countryside~~ were beautiful Artists outside

The ancient Chinese, Greeks and Romans painted the (1) countryside in their pictures but they put the people in front and the countryside was always (2) behind.

In the 18th century, landscape painting became popular as a kind of art. (3) Artists tried to copy nature exactly in their paintings. Two of the first landscape artists were the English painters John Constable and JMW Turner. They were different from earlier painters because they painted their pictures (4) outside and not inside a studio. Because of this, their paintings showed lots of differences in light and colour.

From the 1860s a group of French artists called the impressionists continued and added to this style. They started to paint with small spots which gave an 'impression' or idea of what they (5) were painting. Monet, Pissarro and Renoir were three famous impressionists who painted (6) landscape landscapes.

The artists who came after the impressionists, called the post-impressionists, included Van Gogh and Gauguin. These artists used bright colours. They were different from the impressionists because they used different brush styles to show their feelings. Look at the clouds in the paintings on page 35. Which artist do you think wasn't happy?

3 Read again and answer.

1 When did landscape art become popular?

- ☐ In the 17th century. ☐ In the 18th century. ☐ In the 20th century.

2 Who were the most important English landscape artists?

- ☐ Monet and Renoir. ☐ Pissaro and Gauguin.
☐ John Constable and JMW Turner.

3 Where did they paint their pictures?

- ☐ Outside. ☐ In a studio. ☐ At home.

4 How did the impressionists paint?

- ☐ With large stripes. ☐ With small spots.

5 What kind of colours did Van Gogh and Gauguin use?

- ☐ Bright colours. ☐ Black and white. ☐ Dark colours.

6 How were they different from the impressionists?

- ☐ They used different colours. ☐ They used different brush styles.
☐ They painted different things.