



VAN GOGH'S WORLD

Starry nights and sunflowers, self-portraits and café settings- all painted in bold, intense colors. Today, people all around the world immediately recognize these as the work of Vincent van Gogh, the Dutch painter. Probably no other artist, at any time in any culture, has achieved such popularity.

An artist is born

Vincent van Gogh was born on March 30, 1853, in a small village in southern Holland. As a child, he was serious and sensitive. He loved drawing, and his work showed talent; however, no one encouraged him to become an artist. Instead, his father thought he should take a "sensible" job such as a salesclerk or carpenter. Yet, in 1880, something changed inside van Gogh; he realized that he was meant to be a painter.

Discovering color

In 1886, van Gogh moved from Holland to Paris in order to learn more about color techniques being used by Impressionist artists there. Instead of grays and browns, his work began to emphasize blue and red, and then yellow and orange. Owing to his innovative color combinations, van Gogh showed his viewers how to better appreciate a flower, the night sky, or a person's face.

Descent into madness

Nevertheless, few who lived in Van Gogh's time appreciated his work. Many laughed when they saw his paintings, which hurt the sensitive artist terribly. Following an argument with fellow artist Paul Gauguin, van Gogh took a razor and cut off his own earlob. He never explained why, but by now, many were convinced that he was crazy, and indeed, his mental health started to decline. Subsequently, he was sent to a mental hospital in St. Remy. No one knows what he was suffering from for sure even though some now think it may have been a form of manic depression. Indeed, van Gogh's illness both inhibited and inspired his creativity.

Final Days

Following his release from hospital in 1890, van Gogh took a room in a town north of Paris. For the 70 days that he lived there, he produced a painting a day. Nonetheless, he was unable to sell a single one until his death. On the afternoon of July 27, 1890, he committed suicide at age 37. Undoubtedly, people are buying great art when they purchase one of van Gogh's paintings. But they are also buying a piece of his story, which like his work, will live on forever.



Ex-1) Read the sentences below and, according to the text given above, decide on whether they are True (T), False (F), or not mentioned (N).

1- Vincent van Gogh was a Dutch painter who lived in both Netherlands and France.	_____
2- Starry nights was the painting which he completed in mental hospital.	_____
3- Van Gogh was the painter who painted 'The Scream'.	_____
4- Paris was the city where van Gogh was born.	_____
5- 1854 was the year when he was born.	_____
6- His paintings that consist of outstanding color combinations mainly illustrated café settings, sunflowers and starry nights.	_____
7- The reason why van Gogh moved to Paris was that he was unemployed and financially broke.	_____
8- Vincent van Gogh was a popular painter whose paintings were sold all around the world in his time.	_____

