

World-famous images that stand the test of time

Katsushika Hokusai

Before he died at the age of 89, the last words of artist Katsushika Hokusai were, "If I had five more years, I could become a true artist." Though he was popular in Japan at the time, his work wasn't world famous, and he clearly felt that he had more to learn. In fact, in many countries Hokusai still isn't a famous artist, but you've probably seen his most famous print *The Great Wave* in an advertisement, an art museum, or as an emoji on your smartphone. He created the image between 1830 and 1832, when he was around 70 years old. Hokusai would be amazed at its global popularity if he were alive today.



The Great Wave by Katsushika Hokusai.

Frida Kahlo

If Mexican painter Frida Kahlo hadn't been in a bus accident in 1925, she might not have become an artist. She began painting because she was bored lying in bed with her injuries, unable to move easily. Some of her most famous images show her own face. "I paint myself," said Kahlo, "because I am so often alone and because I am the subject I know best." She had pain for the rest of her life, which may be one reason why her art communicates strength and deep emotion. By the time of her death in 1954, at the age of 47, she was world famous. Her work has become increasingly popular since then. If you went on a world tour now, you'd see Kahlo's self-portraits on T-shirts, mugs, handbags, and other items. Kahlo's work explores the ideas of living your dreams and being strong even when life is hard.



Frida Kahlo souvenir notebooks for sale in Playa del Carmen, Mexico.

Read the article. Select who sentences 1-6 are true for.

	Hokusai	Kahlo
1. Which artist spoke about wanting to get better at making art?	☐	☐
2. Which artist produced one image that is very famous?	☐	☐
3. Which artist has a famous face?	☐	☐
4. Which artist lived to an old age?	☐	☐
5. Which artist was well-known in many countries while alive?	☐	☐
6. Which artist created something that people today still enjoy?	☐	☐