

Self-Portrait, 1889.

Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890)

Hometown & Work

Vincent van Gogh, a painter, was born in **the Netherlands** in 1853. He started to work at the age of 15. He worked as an art dealer, a teacher, a bookseller, and a missionary. He became a full-time painter at the age of 27.

was born 出生; the Netherlands 荷蘭; art dealer 藝術品商人; bookseller 書商; missionary 傳教士

Early Years

Vincent liked to draw pictures of poor hardworking people in his early years. He used many **dark colors** in his pictures, such as brown and dark green. His most famous early painting was **The Potato Eaters**. It was a dark picture of a peasant family eating potatoes for dinner.

most 最; peasant 農夫



The Potato Eaters, 1885.



Sketch of the Sunflower triptych in a letter to Theo

Letters to His Brother

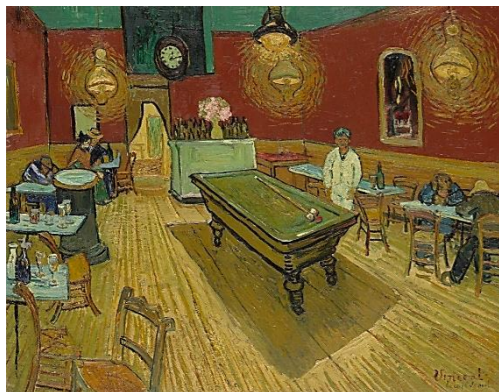
There were over 650 letters he wrote to his **brother**, Theo. Theo was an art dealer in Paris. He cared about Vincent and helped him sell his paintings. However, no one wanted to buy them because dark colors were not popular. Vincent had a poor life at that time.

letter 信件; Paris 巴黎; sell 賣; popular 受歡迎的

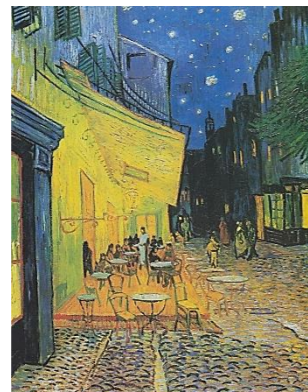
Years in Paris and Arles

In 1886, Vincent moved to Paris. During this time, Vincent started to use a lot of **bright** colors in his paintings. Most of his paintings were about the streets, cafés, flowers, and people's portraits. He also met many famous painters. **Paul Gauguin** was one of them. In 1888, he moved to Arles and sold his only painting in his life: **The Red Vineyard**. He lived with Gauguin in a **yellow house**. One day, they had a fight. Vincent was very angry, so he cut off his **left ear** and sent it to a woman.

Arles 阿爾勒(法國東南部城市); most 大部份; sold 賣了; vineyard 葡萄園; portrait 畫像; sent 送



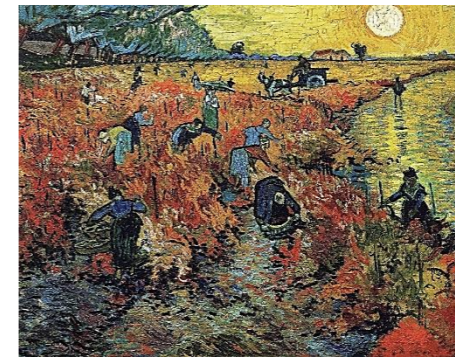
The Night Café, 1888.



Café Terrace at Night, 1888.



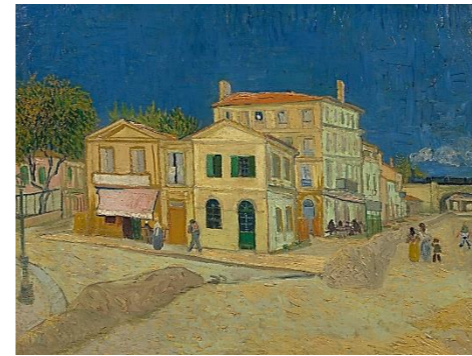
Still Life: Vase with Twelve Sunflowers, 1888.



The Red Vineyard, 1888.



Paul Gauguin



The Yellow House, 1888.



Bedroom in Arles, 1888.

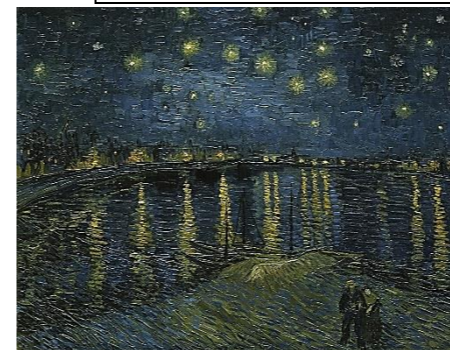


Self-portrait with Bandaged Ear, 1889.

Mental Hospital & Late Years

In 1888, Vincent painted a starry sky picture, *Starry Night Over the Rhone*. Then in 1889, he was in a **mental hospital**. There he still kept painting and painted over 200 pictures. His most famous painting, **The Starry Night**, impressed people with its shining stars, swirling sky, and flaming tree. It showed both a night sky and his chaotic state-of-mind. In the last weeks of his life in 1890, he finished one more painting: **Wheatfield with Crows**. It shows both sadness and a sense of his life coming to the end. Soon after, his life ended sadly. He killed himself and died at the age of 37.

mental 精神的; Rhone 隆河; impress 使...印象深刻; swirling 漩渦狀的; flaming 火焰般的; chaotic 混亂的; state-of-mind 心理狀態; wheatfield 麥田; crow 烏鴉; sense 感受



Starry Night Over the Rhone, 1888.



The Starry Night, 1889.



Wheatfield with Crows, 1890.

What Vincent Did Not Know

Vincent died as a poor, lonely artist, but now his paintings cost millions of dollars now. Today people around the world can see his paintings in the **museums**. The biggest Van Gogh Museum is in his **birthplace**—the Netherlands.

cost 價值; million 百萬 world 世界; biggest 最大的

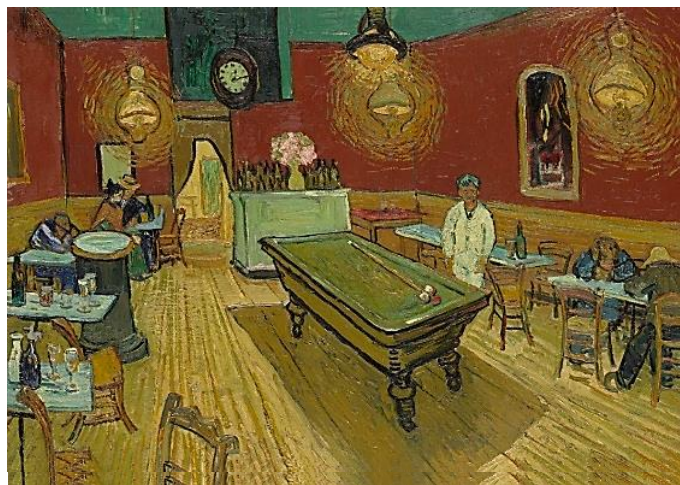
Class: _____ Name: _____

Worksheet #1 留住靈感瞬間 (Random Notes)

Make an English sentence **with at least 4 words** for each picture.



sentence 1



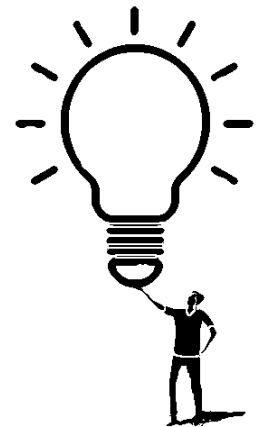
sentence 2

Let's Explore Vincent van Gogh!

Worksheet 2: 百萬中學堂 (Super Brain)

They are the questions we had in class. Write down the answers and check them online by yourself after class.

1. Where is Vincent's hometown?
2. When did Vincent become a full-time painter?
3. Why is Theo important to Vincent?
4. What does Vincent want to show in his early painting *The Potato Eaters*?
5. Vincent sold only 1 painting in his life. What is it?
6. Why did Vincent cut off his ear?
7. In this reading, what word has the same meaning as "birthplace"?
8. How are the two paintings different: *The Night Café* & *Café Terrace at Night*?
9. How long is Vincent's life?
10. In Vincent's last painting, which does "crow" mean, hope or death?
11. Which painting shows Vincent's chaotic state-of-mind?
12. Vincent stayed at a hospital. What's wrong with him?
13. What color of the house did Vincent live with Gauguin?
14. What is the color difference between Vincent's early and late paintings?
15. What are the three parts in Vincent's painting *The Starry Night*?
16. The painting shows Vincent hurt his right ear, but in fact he cut off his left ear. Why is it different?



<https://www.flippity.net/qs.php?k=1Qto9FzeMxzbGuvdAXTRfDB6FqR0e6Qh83If2B3QRas8>

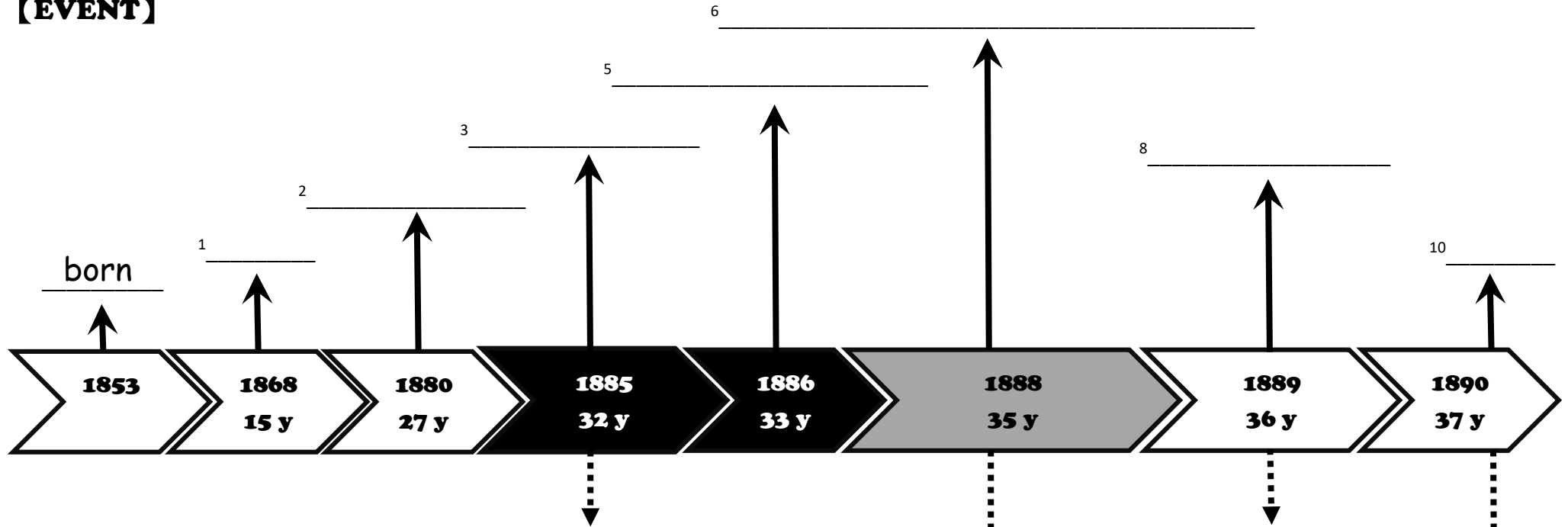


Let's Explore Vincent van Gogh!

Class: _____ Name: _____

Worksheet #3 梵谷的時空隧道 (Vincent van Gogh's Life Timeline)

【EVENT】



【PAINTING】

4 _____

9 _____

① 7 _____

② *Starry Night Over the Rhone*

③ *The Night Café*

④ *Café Terrace at Night*

⑤ *Sunflowers*

⑥ *The Yellow House*

⑦ *Bedroom in Arles*

⑧ *Self-portrait with Bandaged Ear*

Wheatfield with Crows

Let's Explore Vincent van Gogh! Name: _____



Worksheet #4 好想聽英樂 Vincent / by Don McLean

【Introduction】

1. The songwriter, Don McLean, thinks Van Gogh had problems with his mind just because a woman didn't love him.
2. McLean wrote this song on a paper bag, with the painting *The Starry Night*.
3. This song talks about a lot of Vincent's paintings and shows a strong feeling for them.
4. We can always hear this song in the Van Gogh Museum.



The Starry Night, 1889.

● **Listen and complete the gaps.**

【Part #1】

Starry, starry night

¹(P) _____ your palette blue and gray

palette 調色盤

Look out on a summer's day

With eyes that know the darkness in my soul

soul 靈魂

Shadows on the hills

shadow 陰影; hill 小山丘

Sketch the ²(t) _____ and the daffodils

sketch 素描; daffodil 水仙花

Catch the breeze and the winter chills

breeze 微風; chill 寒冷

In colors on the snowy linen land

linen 亞麻般的

【Part #2】

● **Order the lines: Write down the numbers (i.e. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) according to what you listen.**

_____ How you tried to set them free

_____ How you suffered for your sanity

suffer 受苦; sanity 精神健全、清醒

_____ Now I understand what you tried to say to me

_____ Perhaps they'll listen now

perhaps 也許

_____ They would not listen, they did not know how

【Part #3】

Starry, starry night

Flaming ³(f) _____ that brightly blaze

flaming 火焰般的; blaze 燃燒、閃耀

Swirling clouds in violet haze

swirling 漩渦狀的; violet 紫羅蘭色的; haze 薄霧

Reflect in Vincent's eyes of china blue

reflect 反射

Colors changing hue

hue 顏色、色澤

Morning fields of amber grain

field 田野; amber 琥珀色的; grain 稻穀

Weathered ⁴(f) _____ (es) lined in pain

weathered 受盡風霜的; pain 痛苦

Are soothed beneath the artist's loving hand

soothe 撫慰; beneath 在...之下

【Part #4】

For they could not love you

But still your love was true

And when no ⁵(h) _____ was left inside

On that starry, starry night

You took your life as lovers often do

But I could have told you, Vincent

This world was never meant for one as beautiful as you

【Part #5】

Starry, starry night

Portraits hung in empty halls

portrait 畫像; hung 懸掛; empty 空的; hall 禮堂

Frameless heads on nameless walls

frameless 無鑲框的; nameless 不知名的

With eyes that watch the world and can't forget

Like the strangers that you've met

stranger 陌生人

The ragged men in ragged clothes

ragged 衣衫襤褸的、破爛的

The silver thorn of bloody rose

silver 銀色的; thorn 刺; bloody 血淋淋的; rose 玫瑰花

Lie crushed and broken on the virgin snow

crush 壓碎; virgin 純潔的

【Part #6】

● **Order the lines: Write down the numbers (i.e. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) according to what you listen.**

_____ They would not listen, they're not listening still

_____ Perhaps they never will

_____ Now, I think I know what you tried to say to me

_____ How you tried to set them free

_____ How you suffered for your sanity

【English + Music 英樂交流】

1. What plants can we know Vincent painted in his art work? Circle or highlight the keywords.

2. In Part 3, it says, "flaming ³(f) _____ that brightly blaze." Which painting do you think it talks about?

3. Sometimes we may feel sad. Share with us how to make yourself feel better.

Sing with me!

Wanna have some fun? Scan the QR code to try its **karaoke version**.

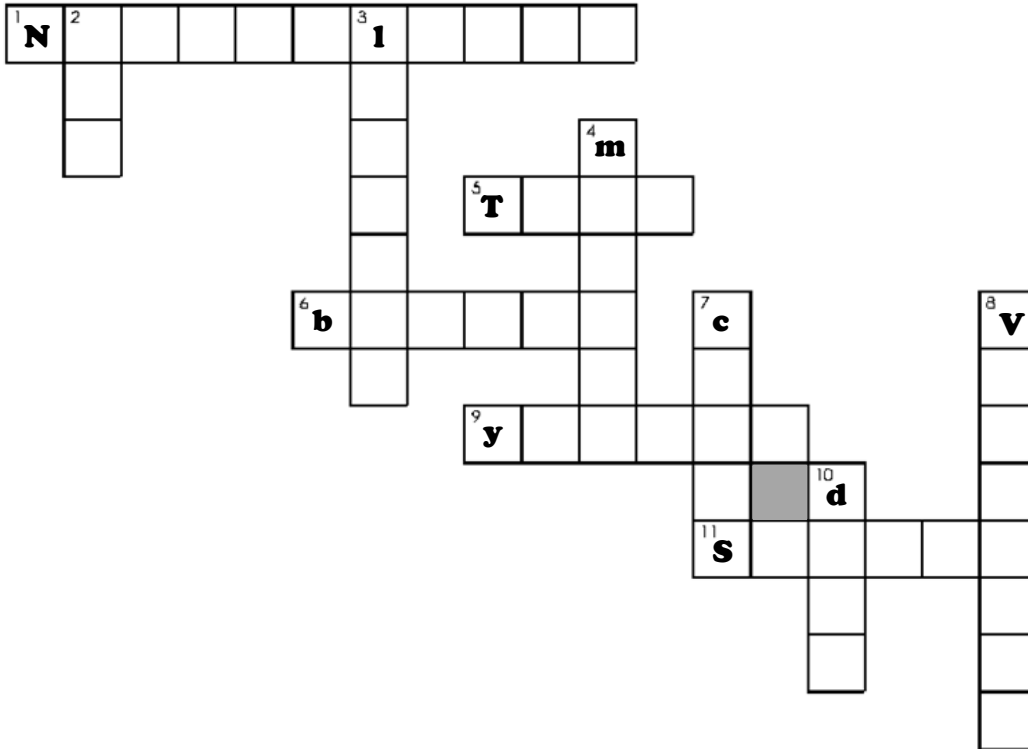


Reference:

<https://en.islcollective.com/english-esl-worksheets/material-type/activities-songs-and-nursery-rhymes/vincent-starry-starry-night-don-mclean-song-worksheet/108805>

Worksheet #5: 字謎解密 (Crossword Puzzle)

Search for Van Gogh's Secrets!



Across: →

- 1. Vincent's hometown.
- 5. Vincent's brother.
- 6. Vincent used lots of this color in Paris.
- 9. He lived in a ___ house with Gauguin.
- 11. His most famous painting "The ___ Night"

Down: ↓

- 2. He was angry and cut off his left _____ .
- 3. Vincent wrote many _____ to his brother.
- 4. Vincent was in a _____ hospital in 1889.
- 7. His last painting "Wheatfield with ___"
- 8. The only painting he sold is "The Red ___."
- 10. Vincent used this color in early years.

Let's Explore Vincent van Gogh!

Group members: _____

Group work: 星空下的亂入趣 (PhotoBomb Fun with Starry Night)

1. Refill the starry night with a new life by coloring it and putting one character in it.
2. Write an English sentence below the picture to show your story.

