



Art Masterpiece

Kindergarten

Core knowledge Topics: Science (Shapes and colors), Social Studies (Symbols and Figures of America)

Painting: Tahitian Landscape by Paul Gauguin

About the Artist: Paul Gauguin was considered a Symbolist painter. He was born in 1848 and died in 1903. He didn't start out as a painter though. He was a stockbroker and painted as a hobby. When he was 35 he decided to become a painter full-time and left his job and family. He even left his home in France, traveled and finally settled in the South Pacific. He painted *Tahitian Landscape* while he lived in Tahiti.

Art Concepts:

Flat Shapes: Gauguin painted what he saw as flat bold colored objects. Look at the mountains in the painting and the sky. Does it look like you can go around the mountain? He did a lot of wood carvings too so many of his paintings use the same bold white-on-black patterns and shapes that have little perspective. What gives a picture "perspective"?

Primitive Style: Gauguin loved the island lifestyle, customs and religious symbols. When he painted or carved, he would use a lot of these symbols in his art. Because he liked to use a lot of symbols in his work, he was considered a Symbolist painter. He liked a primitive lifestyle. Do you know what that means? Do you live a primitive lifestyle?

Bright Colors: The islands had bright colors and Gauguin liked using these bright colors in his artwork. Some people said that Gauguin used unnatural colors because the things in his paintings didn't look real. What doesn't look real in *Tahitian Landscape*? Why?

Project Idea:

Have children make a Tahitian Landscape. Use construction paper to make the sky, clouds, and mountains. Use crayons to color in the trees, flowers and bushes. The big pieces of construction paper can be used as large flat areas.

Use bright colored crayons to do the rest.

