



Art Masterpiece

2nd Grade

Core knowledge Topics: Social Studies (Japan)

Van Gogh's "Starry Night" and Hokusai's "The Great Wave at Kanagawa Nami-Ura"

Lesson: We're learning about lines and movement. When you draw a picture, notice the different lines you use. Lines can be thick or thin, zigzag, curved, spiral, wavy or straight. They can be vertical, horizontal or diagonal (write examples on board).

About the Artists:

Katsushika Hokusai: Hokusai was a painter and wood engraver born in 1760 in Japan. He produced over 30,000 pieces of art! At the age of 18, he started studying painting. He often created art about the traditions, legends and people of Japan. His art was a source of inspiration for many Impressionists like Van Gogh. His most popular work of art is the series "Thirty-Six Views of Mt. Fuji" of which the first is "The Great Wave at Kanagawa".

What do you notice first? What is the great wave about to crash on? Can you see the men huddled together in the fishing boats? Imagine this picture is part of a movie. What will happen next? Look at how Hokusai drew the waves. It almost looks alive and that curling fingers are reaching out to grab the fishing boats. Do you see the many curving lines in the picture (follow lines with fingertip, especially from the top of the water on the right side to the left up and under the wave)? Despite the turbulent wave, is there anything calm in the picture (Mt. Fuji)? (point out the duality between calmness and turmoil).

Vincent Van Gough: Van Gogh was born in 1853 in Holland. He was the oldest of eight children. When he was 16 years old, he worked for a firm of art dealers. He lived in many places, visited many art galleries and studied art. After moving to London, he became a teacher then later a missionary helping the poor. He gave away all his possessions and devoted himself to the people. It was a hard life and he eventually moved to Paris where his brother Theo, lived. There he met Impressionist painters which influenced his style of painting. Van Gogh

moved to a city in the South of France and was a very productive artist. There he worked at his paintings all day long. In the fifteen months he lived there, he produced over two hundred paintings! Van Gogh painted many masterpieces of nature and humanity. He was very sensitive to the struggles of others. His own feelings and emotions can be felt in many of his paintings. One of the most expensive paintings ever sold was Van Gogh's "Portrait of Dr. Gachet" which sold for over eighty million dollars! "Starry Night" is one of his most famous paintings.

What do you notice first? What do you see in the bottom half? What do you see in the top half? (again showing the calm/turmoil). Why does the top half show so much action and the lower half seem so calm and still? The sky seems to be moving and swirling around. The paint was applied in bold thick strokes. Even though this is just a picture of the painting, you can almost feel its rough texture.

Project: Finger painting. Create your own swirls that would be in the wind or the ocean.

Need:

Clean desk!

Fingerpaints

Paper

Many paper towels

