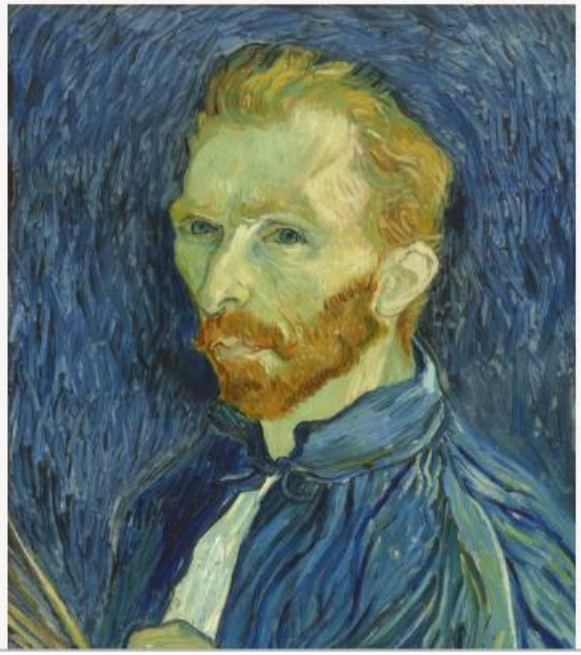
Vincent Van Gogh

WHO IS VINCENT VAN GOGH?



Vincent van Gogh *Self Portrait, Autumn* 1889 National Gallery of Art (Washington, USA)

Vincent van Gogh is one of the most famous and influential artists in history. He produced some of the most recognisable and popular art in the world. He lived during an incredibly exciting period in the history of art and played an important role in the development of the art movement known as post-impressionism.

Are you ready to learn more about the artist and have a go at creating art like his?

SELF-PORTRAITS

Illustration by Grace Helmer © Michael O'Mara Books Ltd

Van Gogh is famous for his self-portraits. No one knows exactly how many he created, but over 40 can be seen in museums and galleries around the world today.

He used self-portraits as a way of practising portraits without having to pay models to sit for him.

Vincent van Gogh *Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear* 1889 © The Courtauld Gallery, London

One of his most famous paintings shows him just weeks after he has cut off part of his ear. The bandage looks like it is on the wrong ear because he painted his self-portraits while looking in the mirror.

Although every portrait is different, van Gogh used some common elements in all of them, such as a serious, intense gaze and his distinctive red hair.

Vincent Van Gogh

CREATE A SELF-PORTRAIT

Illustration by Grace Helmer © Michael O'Mara Books Ltd

Look in the mirror and fill these frames with two versions of your own self-portrait.

DOWNLOAD A FRAME FOR YOUR SELF-PORTRAIT

To make your pictures different, alter things like:

- your facial expression
- your pose
- your hairstyle
- what you are wearing

Choose background colours that reflect different moods. Try:

- **Yellow** for a happy portrait
- **Red** if you have drawn an angry portrait
- **Blue** to give a calm feeling