

Van Gogh-K(Life Cycles) Color Lesson Plan

A large print of Vincent Van Goghs "Starry Night" is available in the hallway of building 1

Supplies needed:

white paper
black paper
paint brushes
watercolors

Biography:

Vincent Van Gogh was born in the Netherlands, his father was a minister. When he was 16 he started working for an art dealer but he later decided he would like to become a minister like his father. After being dismissed he followed his brother, Theo's, advice and took up art. He spent most of the rest of his life learning about and practicing art. He was very close to his brother, and Theo supported him throughout his life so that Vincent could continue to study art. He died near Paris in 1890.

Discussion:

- What colors do you see in this artwork?
- What color is used the most? the least?
- Are the colors bold or muted?
- What is the artist trying to tell you by his use of color?
- Show the students pictures of the sunflowers and poppies. Discuss how some of the flowers are new, closed buds, others are large, bright and in full bloom, while others are wilting and losing their petals.
- Discuss the difference in color between the full blooms and the flowers that are dying.

Art Project:

- Have the students paint a vase or field of flowers with the watercolors. They should paint flowers in the different stages of life.
- Encourage the children to use bright colors for the flowers in full bloom and add a little black to the flowers that are wilting to show that they are older.
- The students may glue their picture to a black sheet of paper to give it a nice frame.