

Art Explorers Vincent Van Gogh 2nd Grade

Objective: The students will learn about the artist Vincent Van Gogh. The volunteer parent will read the book Van Gogh to the students (except page 29). Then the volunteer parent will have the students discuss Van Gogh's self-portrait and Starry Night. The students will then use Van Gogh's method of swirling colors together to create their own rendition of Starry Night.

Discussion: Without telling the students who the artist is, show them the self-portrait of Vincent Van Gogh. Ask if anyone knows who the person in the portrait is. Explain that it is Vincent Van Gogh and that he painted it of himself, which makes it a self-portrait. Let the students know that Vincent is one of the most famous artists of all time and that you are going to read a book to them about him. Have them sit in a large group and read the book, Getting To Know the World's Famous Artist, Van Gogh to them. After the book has been read show them Vincent's Starry Night and explain that it is the most well known painting ever created. Ask the students what they see. Ex: a night sky, swirling clouds, dark colors, bright stars, a little town below, a large church and tiny buildings etc. Next talk about the swirls that Vincent painted. Ask the students about the colors he used and the way he used short brush strokes instead of long ones. Point out that Vincent did not always blend his colors, but layered them on top of each other. Next Show the Students Vincent Van Gogh's Self Portrait. Ask the students if they see any similarities between the two pieces of artwork. Tell the students that they are going to recreate Starry Night as their project.

Project: The students will create their own version of Starry Night

Material List:

- The book Van Gogh
- Black, purple or blue large rectangular Construction Paper
- Chalk Pastels
- Wipes
- Paper Towels

Set Up: The students should sit in groups of 4 or more with their desks pushed together to form "tables." The students will share Chalk Pastels. Each student should be given 1 piece of construction paper. The students should write their name and their teacher's name on it in pencil on the back.

Directions: The Parent Volunteer will show the students an example of Starry Night done in Chalk Pastels. Then the volunteer will demonstrate drawing with chalk pastels, swirling dashes to create Starry Night. The volunteer will let the students know that chalk smears and talk about carefully placing their hands on their papers so as not to smear their chalk. Next talk about creating a village and what shapes make up a village. (Squares, rectangles, triangles) Have the students use different shapes to create their village...ex: church steeples are triangular. Also talk about what could be in the sky of the village; clouds, stars, wind. Stress the

importance of filling up the page with colorful dashes. Leave the Starry Night painting up on the Promethean board as well as the example for the students to look at while they are working on their project. When the Students are finished the projects will be ready to hang on the Bulletin Board or to take home.

Clean Up: Have the Students Wash their hands and wipe their desks clean. They and their desks will be dusty.