

Discover Art

WITH NEWFIELDS



Vincent Van Gogh (Dutch, 1853-1890) *Landscape at Saint-Rémy (Enclosed Field with Peasant)*, 1889, oil on canvas, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, Gift of Mrs. James W. Fesler in memory of Daniel W. and Elizabeth C. Marmon, 44.74. • <http://collection.imamuseum.org/artwork/56838/>

→ ABOUT THE ARTIST

- Vincent Van Gogh was born in 1853 in Holland. He was 27 years old when he decided to paint full time, despite leaving art school after only nine months.
- Van Gogh often used vivid colors in his paintings and aimed to express emotion by using thick paint and swirling brushstrokes.
- Van Gogh loved writing, composing nearly 800 letters during his life, sent primarily to his brother Theo.

→ CHALLENGE YOURSELF

“Drawing is the root of everything!” — Adapted from Vincent’s letter to Theo, The Hague, June 1883.

Kindergarten — Second Grade

- Begin by drawing two bumble bees, one small and one large. Carefully cut out the two bees. Using the enlarged view of the painting on page 2, place the small bee at the top of the painting by the mountains. Place the large bee at the bottom of the painting by the field. Which bee is near? Which bee is far? Objects that are far away appear smaller.
- Near and far also applies to sound. Sound that is near will be louder and sound that is far will be quieter. Pretend that you are a bee...*buzzzzz!* Make a buzzing noise at a normal volume standing next to a friend. Now, move across the room—does your friend hear the buzzing noise as loudly? Which noise volume means it’s near? Which noise volume means it’s far away? Use your bee cutouts and your sounds to continue practicing near and far.

Reinvent Van Gogh’s *Landscape at Saint-Rémy*

→ SHARE IDEAS

“There are colors that cause each other to shine brilliantly, which form a couple that complete each other.” — Adapted from Vincent’s letter to his sister, Arles, June 1888

Third Grade — Fifth Grade

- What colors do you see in this painting? Create a list of the three colors you think Van Gogh used the most. Are they primary or secondary colors? Compare your list of colors with a partner.
- Next, working together, use different sizes of construction paper squares of primary, secondary, and neutral colors and place different colored squares on top of each other. For example, place a small blue square on top of a large gray square. Then, place another small blue square on top of a large yellow square. Which color, gray or yellow, makes the blue shine brighter? Choose colors paired together in Van Gogh’s painting to test with your construction paper squares. How bright or dull do they become against different colors? Compare your color observations with a partner.

→ BE CREATIVE

“The result is that on the beach or in a meadow or a field you have a view as if through a window.” — Adapted from Vincent’s letter to Theo, The Hague, August 1882

Sixth Grade — Eighth Grade

- Write a story inspired by this painting. First, imagine that you are the farmer in the field. What is your name? What do you look like? What do you enjoy? Take the reader through a typical day in your life. What do you do? Who do you talk to? Then, imagine that you meet Van Gogh in the field. What would you talk about? Is there anything you would ask him? Include this dialog in your narrative. Finally, look at the painting and imagine what the weather is like that day. How does this affect caring for your crops? Incorporate all of these elements into your story and share with your friends.



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