

Wheat Fields after the Rain: Vincent van Gogh Art Study and Art Opinion

Grade

●3

Teacher-In-Residence

●Stefani Allegretti

Subjects

●Art, English Language
Arts, Writing

Carnegie
Museum of Art

Goals

- To provide students with the opportunity to study/analyze an artwork.
- To introduce students to a famous artist, Vincent van Gogh.
- To allow students to write their opinion using art vocabulary words about an artwork.

Objectives

- Students will learn about a famous artist.
- Students will study a work of art.
- Students will learn and use art vocabulary words to answer questions about an artwork and write their opinion about an artwork.

Standards

- **9.1.3.C. ART** Recognize and use fundamental vocabulary within each of the arts forms.
- **9.3.3.A. ART** Recognize critical processes used in the examination of works in the arts and humanities: Compare and contrast; Analyze; Interpret; Form and test hypotheses; Evaluate/form judgments
- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.3.6** Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate conversational, general academic, and domain-specific words and phrases.
- **W.3.1.** Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons

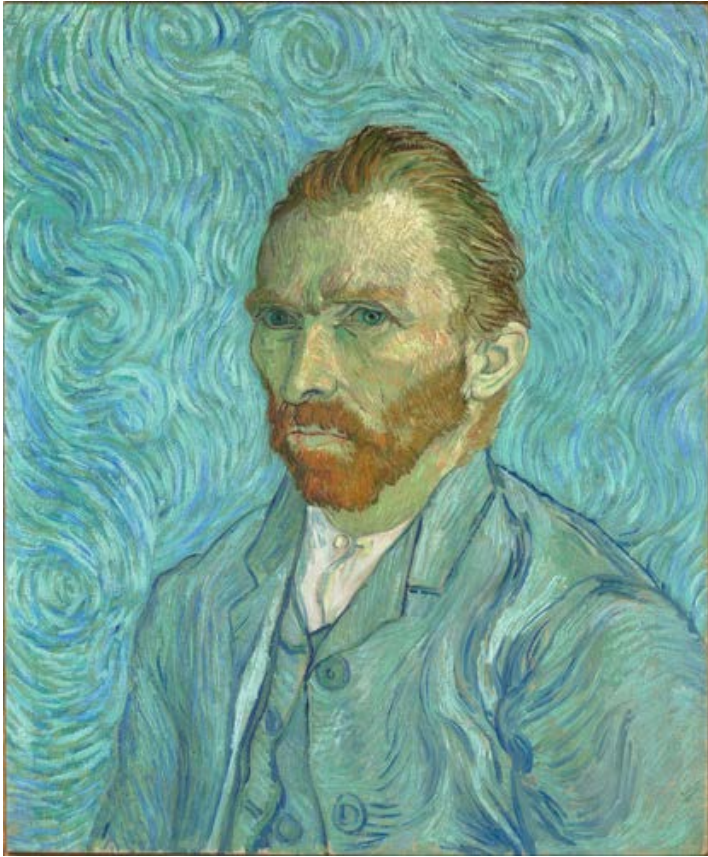
Materials

- Pencil
- Eraser
- Art Study and Opinion worksheet
- Crayons (red, yellow, blue, green, orange, and purple)

Vocabulary

- Warm colors
- Cool colors
- Foreground
- Middle ground
- Background
- Landscape
- Opinion

Artworks



Vincent van Gogh, *Self-Portrait*, 1889, Musée d'Orsay, Paris, RF1949-17 © Musée d'Orsay, Dist. RMN-Grand Palais / Patrice Schmidt



Vincent van Gogh, *Wheat Fields after the Rain (The Plain of Auvers)*, 1890, Acquired through the generosity of the Sarah Mellon Scaife Family, 68.18

Lesson

Introduction:

Introduce the artist Vincent van Gogh to students. Explain that Vincent van Gogh is a famous artist who created many paintings and lived most of his life in France. It was in France, a country in Europe, where he painted many of his paintings, including the painting we are going to see today. Show portrait of Vincent Van Gogh.

Today, we are going to look closely at one of Vincent van Gogh's famous paintings, *Wheat Fields after the Rain*, painted in 1890. We are going to examine it and talk about what we see. Then, you are going to get to write your opinion about this artwork. To begin, let's use our Art Study worksheet. We will write down important notes about this artwork and things that we notice.

Activity:

[Pass out Art Study & Art Opinion worksheet/pencils]

- Begin by playing Carnegie Museum of Art audio: Nature Meditation

- After video is over, show the painting *Wheat Fields after the Rain* (*The Plain of Auvers*)

Before answering questions on the worksheet freely discuss artwork.

(e.g., What do you think about this painting? How does it make you feel? What is something you really like or dislike about this painting?)

Ask: What kind of painting is this? What is it showing?

- Allow students to answer/guess.
- Explain that this painting is a landscape. A landscape is a painting showing land.
- Instruct students to write down the answer on their worksheet.
- "Let's continue to examine this painting."

Ask: What kinds of colors do you see in this painting?

- Allow students to answer/guess.
- Explain that we see green, blue, white, yellow, brown and a little bit of red.
- Instruct students to write down the answer on their worksheet.
- Explain that in art, there are warm colors and cool colors. Green, blue, and purple are cool colors. Red, orange, and yellow are warm colors.

Lesson

Ask: What colors do we see the most of in this painting, warm or cool?

- Allow students to answer/guess.
- Explain that there are mostly cool colors in this painting.
- Instruct students to circle answer on their worksheet.
- Explain that in landscape paintings, often we see a foreground, a middle ground and background. The foreground is the part of the painting that appears to be closest to us. Usually, things look bigger in the foreground. The background is the part of the painting where things look farther away and usually are smaller.
- Point to the trees in the background and compare them to the flowers in the foreground. The middle ground of course is in the middle of the painting.

Ask: Is there a foreground, middle ground, and a background in this painting? Yes, or no?

- Allow students to answer.
- Yes, there is a foreground, middle ground, and background.

Summarize

- Summarize what students have learned about the painting through the study of the artwork. E.g., the title of the artwork, artist's name, landscape painting, mostly cool colors, has foreground, middle ground and background.
- Explain Art Opinion writing activity.
- Say: "Now, you are going to get to write your very own opinion about this painting. An opinion is what you think about something. For example, do you think it is a great painting? If you do, why? Maybe you don't like this painting and don't think it is very good. If so, why don't you like it? Support your opinion about this painting with reasons. You will explain in a paragraph (at least 4 sentences) what your opinion about this artwork is. When writing your opinion, make sure you include the artist's name, the title of the artwork and at least one of the art vocabulary words you learned about today. For example, your first sentence might look like this: I really like the painting, *Wheatfields After the Rain* by Vincent van Gogh and think it is fantastic. Add your reasons why. Don't forget your conclusion.

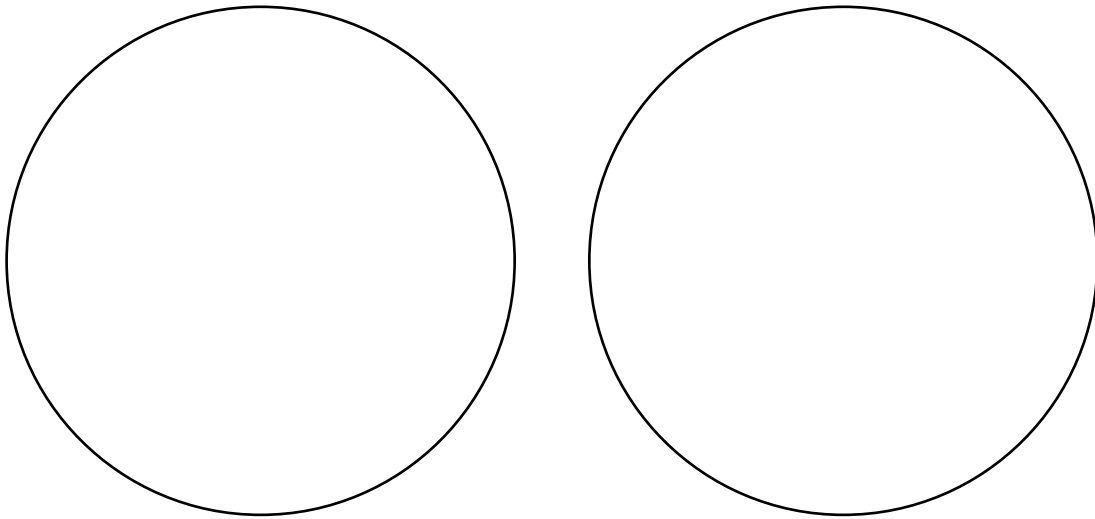
Art Study and Opinion Worksheet

Name: _____

Vincent Van Gogh, *Wheatfields after the Rain*, 1890

1. What kind of painting is this?

2. What colors do you see in this painting? Color in the circles with the warm colors and cool colors using your crayons.



3. What kinds of colors do we mostly see in this painting? Warm or Cool? Circle your answer below.

Warm

Cool

4. Does this painting have a foreground, middle ground, and background? Yes, or no?

Yes

No

Art Study and Opinion Worksheet

5. Art Opinion

Directions: In the space below, you will get to write your own opinion about this artwork. Remember to include the artist's name, the title of the painting, and at least one art vocabulary word that we learned about today when you write your opinion.

Art vocabulary words: landscape, warm colors, cool colors, foreground, middle ground, background

Sentence Starter: I think the painting, *Wheatfields After the Rain* by Vincent van Gogh is _____. Add your reasons about your opinion and don't forget your conclusion!
