



Fields of Gold

As language specialists

We will use Van Gogh's life story to write biographies after studying examples such as Catherine de Duve's "The Little van Gogh" as well as inferring facts from his artwork. We will learn how to use dictionaries to independently discover new vocabulary for us then to use in context of our own work. 'Camille and the Sunflowers' by Laurence Anholt will open up fact through fiction and enable us to empathise with the artist behind the canvas. Similarly, 'Katie and the Sunflowers' by James Mayhew will help us explore Van Gogh's artwork and thinking about what it would be like if we could step into a painting. Our class book 'The boy who grew dragons' by Andy Shepherd will combine with our science and inspire us to imagine what might grow if the right seed is planted. Through science and technology, we will explore a range of non-fiction texts and learn the art of report writing.

As geographers

In a combination of science and English, we will use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in our local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies. As well as capturing our environment as geographers, van Gogh's influence may help us as we record the landscape with pastels and paints.

As historians

We will track the life of Vincent van Gogh through the main historical source we have: his artwork and letters. We will explore what his life was like in the 1800s and how the rise of Impressionism changed the course of art history. By researching Vincent's life, we will revise the skills needed to understand chronology and primary sources.

As scientists

In our 'plant' focus, we will investigate and understand the parts of a flowering plant and explore the things needed for successful growth and reproduction. Practical investigation will lead us to study how a plant transports water, as well as looking at pollination and seed dispersal. There are plenty of good examples in our school grounds, which will inspire our scientific thinking and progress.

The Big Idea...

"If you hear a voice within you say, 'you cannot paint,' then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced."- Vincent van Gogh.

Vincent van Gogh is one of the most renowned artists of all time, yet in his own lifetime he was not at all thought of as the talent many feel he is today. Our topic will unravel the turbulent life and times of Vincent through exploring his paintings and the legacy he has left behind in the world of art. Capturing knowledge and expressing ideas through art and creativity is the essence of human learning but so often children feel that these are skills that you either have or not. Our topic aims to prove how precious self-expression is.

As mathematicians

We will become masters of fractions! We will recap our understanding of half, third and quarter of length, shape and quantity before understanding the difference between unit and non-unit fractions. We will use our fluency with times tables to notice patterns in equivalent fractions, find fractions of numbers and add and subtract fractions with the same denominator. We will use all of our learning around fractions to problem solve. We will continue to work on fluency of times table facts for 2,3,4,5,8,10 times tables (up to 12x) including the related division facts. We will also explore mass and capacity, money and time.

Across the curriculum

As musicians

We will explore the musical landscape by listening to composers who interpreted and captured the English countryside through music. From Elgar and Britten to John Rutter's more contemporary style, the children will appreciate British culture.

As expressive artists

Through our *Painting of the Week* project, we will discuss Van Gogh's use of colour, line, movement, texture, shape and scale. Inspired by his broad stroked and impressionist style, we will create our own pieces of artwork in the impressionist style.

As computer specialists

We will continue our work on writing code using Scratch. We will introduce the ideas of repeating, loops and exploring the pen function to create our own shape based designs.

As fitness experts

We will build on our team skills of communication and good sportsmanship. By playing competitive games in small groups, we will challenge ourselves to communicate effectively and use our sport skills in combination.

As philosophers

We will explore all major religions following the theme of worship and inspiring people in religion.

Knowledge of the World

Vincent lived most of his life away from his home in Holland but frequently wrote letters to his brother and the rest of his family living in Amsterdam. What is it like to emigrate or flee to a different country? To be away from your own culture, language, home?

Citizenship and PSHE

In our PSHE sessions, we will look at maintaining a healthy lifestyle and how we can make good choices which, ultimately, impacts on the way we feel. As a school, the children will be exploring British Values – particularly poignant as we prepare for the coronation of the King! In assemblies this term the main theme will be focussed on Protected Characteristics.

Ambitious thinking

What is beauty? We all have different views and opinions about what beauty looks like/is, so our tastes for artwork will all be different. Is art a 'pretty picture' or is it something that makes you think, makes you wonder? Can beauty be found in anything if you look closely enough?