

Vincent Van Gogh



Vincent Van Gogh was born in Holland in 1853. His father was a minister in the Dutch Reformed Church.

After leaving school at 15, Vincent had lots of different jobs. When he was 25, he began to train to be a preacher but failed in his studies. He went to Belgium, taking Christianity to poor people. His parents became very worried about his health and asked him to come home.

But he argued a lot with his father. After a while, things got so bad that Vincent left home. Then he became interested in drawing everyday scenes and his brother Theo persuaded him to take up art seriously.

In 1886 Vincent went to Paris. There he met a group of artists called Impressionists. They painted outside, using quick brush strokes to make colourful pictures of what they could see.

But Vincent was often sad and angry. Once he was so angry that he cut off part of his ear. Later on, he began to hear voices in his head. In 1889, he went into an asylum. This is a special hospital where people with mental illnesses can be cared for.

Vincent spent a year in the asylum. He painted lots of pictures while he was there.

When he felt better, Vincent left the asylum. He went to live in Paris. But sadly he began to feel very unhappy again. No one seemed able to make him feel better.

In July 1890, Vincent shot himself. He died two days later.



Read the text in the three boxes below.

Which one is a summary of page 16? Click the correct one.

Vincent Van Gogh was born in Holland. He was an artist.

Vincent Vanguard was born in Harlow. He was a painter and decorator.

Victor Vickers was born in Hawaii. He was an art dealer.

Read the questions.

Choose the answer from the drop-down menu.

- Where was Vincent Van Gogh born?
- When was he born?
- What were the artists he met in Paris called?
- When did he die?

<input type="checkbox"/> A	They were called Impressionists.
<input type="checkbox"/> B	He was born in 1853.
<input type="checkbox"/> C	He died in 1890.
<input type="checkbox"/> D	Vincent was born in Holland.
<input type="checkbox"/> E	They were called TV celebrities.

Name: _____

Write a summary of the passage about Vincent Van Gogh on page 16.

Answer the questions below.

1. Why do you think Vincent had lots of different jobs when he left school?

2. What sort of pictures did Impressionists paint?

3. What did Vincent cut off?

4. Why did he go into an asylum?

5. What did he do while he was in the asylum?

6. How long was Vincent in the asylum?

7. How did he die?

Teacher's notes

Memory, Thinking and Comprehension

Book 1: Amazing People

Memory, thinking and comprehension is a series of interactive CDs to support children with educational needs at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3. The series is designed to help the development of comprehension skills including memory and thinking and may be used as part of independent work or group work.

How to use this series:

The work may be accessed straight from the CDs, so that pupils can complete the work on screen. Alternatively, the worksheets may be printed straight from the CD to provide writing tasks for the pupils.

Each CD contains 8 units of work. Each unit is spread over three pages.

Introductory page

This provides a passage which may be used in a shared reading situation or independently.

Work page A

This invites pupils to select a summary of the passage they have read. The pupils are then asked to answer simple questions selecting the correct answer from the bottom of the page.

Work page B

This is a more demanding page and requires pupils to write an independent summary about the passage. There follows a series of questions which pupils should answer without reference to the passage at the first attempt. Only when pupils have completed the questions to the best of their abilities may they refer to the text to complete any unanswered questions. It is suggested that pupils use a different coloured pen to differentiate those questions that have been answered from memory as opposed to text reference.

The record chart

This can be found on page 25 and provides the teacher with a checklist of the work each child has covered and the level of attainment achieved.

Other titles in this series:

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Memory, thinking and comprehension

Book 1 Amazing People

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