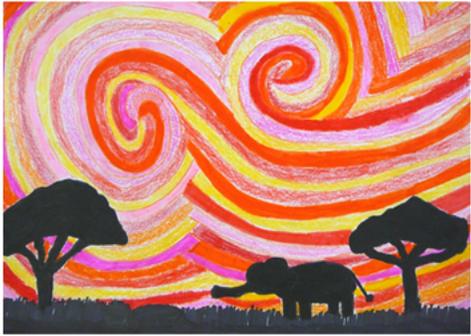




Swirling Skies

INSPIRED BY *Vincent van Gogh*





Swirling Skies

INSPIRED BY Vincent van Gogh



Dear Teacher,

Thank you for purchasing this Vincent van Gogh Starry Night Art Lesson. My students really enjoyed doing this lesson, and I hope yours will too!

THIS PDF CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- Lesson Information ([page 3](#))
- Lesson Procedures ([pages 4-6](#))
- Student Handout in color ([page 7](#))
- Student Handout in black and white ([page 8](#))
- Elements and Principles of Art mini-posters ([pages 9-10](#))
- Warm and Cool Colors mini-poster ([page 11](#))
- Grading Rubrics ([pages 12-13](#))
- Vincent van Gogh Word Search ([page 14-15](#))
- Vincent van Gogh posters ([pages 16-21](#))
- Suggested Products ([page 22](#))
- Terms of Use ([page 23](#))

If you'd like to teach your students more about Vincent van Gogh, check out [this PowerPoint](#) all about him and his artwork. For more art lesson ideas and resources, visit my blog allaboutarted.com and join my [Facebook group for art teachers!](#)

Don't hesitate to reach out to me at Christine@allaboutarted.com with any questions or comments! And please remember to leave feedback on this resource in "[My Purchases](#)" so you will earn TPT Credits to apply towards your future purchases.

THANK YOU!

Christine
From [All About Art](#)



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GRADE LEVEL:

Recommended for grades 4-5
(examples were created by 5th grade students)

CLASS TIME NEEDED:

Four 45-min class periods to complete the art project.

ART CONCEPTS/SKILLS LEARNED:

Emphasis, Silhouette, Movement, Warm/Cool Colors

MATERIALS AND RESOURCES:

- [Visual of *The Starry Night* by Vincent van Gogh](#)
- [Elements and Principles Posters](#)
- [Color Wheel Poster](#)
- 9x12 drawing paper
- Pencils
- Sharpies
- Crayons, Colored Pencils, and/or Markers

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PROCEDURE:

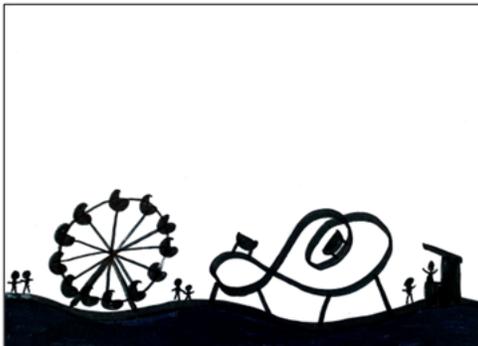
(page 1 of 3)

Day 1: Discussion of Artwork, Envisioning our own Landscapes.

Before the lesson begins, Look at Vincent van Gogh's *The Starry Night*. Discuss what makes *The Starry Night* so well-loved, why it has become so famous, and which elements and principles of art van Gogh utilizes in the work. Ask... What is unique? What is the focal point/emphasis? (The swirling sky) How would you describe the landscape? (low, small, dark) How would you describe the sky? (Big, bright, swirly). Perhaps write all these answers on the board in a brainstorming session.

Note that in order to create emphasis on the awesome sky, **the landscape itself needed to be low and dark**. Discuss what a *silhouette* is, and how the backlighting of a bright sky would make the landscape appear like a dark shadow. Discuss some possibilities for unique landscape ideas (see images below for a few ideas).

Students can develop their own landscape ideas. If you can allow them to practice ideas first, they can draw two large boxes, thumbnail-style, on a practice sheet (or the back of their direction handout, or the back of their final drawing paper). Students can draw a different landscape in each thumbnail box. They can color the landscapes with black to make sure they will turn out ok as silhouettes. Then, **students choose their favorite of the two landscapes, and draw it on their final drawing paper**. After they create their final drawing, they can **color it either black or a very dark shade of another color (layering black with other colors)**. If students do not finish coloring their landscapes by the end of this class period, they can finish it after they create their sky.



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PROCEDURE:

(page 2 of 3)

Day 2: Creating Movement

Discuss that **cool-toned color schemes** include *greens, blues, and purples*, and **warm-toned color schemes** include *reds, oranges, and yellows*. Discuss why each color scheme would work well for different types of scenes. Students can consider what type of color scheme they think would work well with their unique landscape.

Discuss how to create movement. Show how van Gogh's sky in *Starry Night* is based off *two main swirls*. **Students can draw 2-3 basic swirls** on each of their practice thumbnail drawings. They can then **draw additional lines building off those initial swirls** to create an entire sky full of swirling stripes.

Students can determine which of their initial swirls create the best-looking sky and decide if they'd like to create a cool-toned sky or warm-toned sky. **Students can draw their 2-3 swirls of movement** on their final paper with colored pencils - either orange (for warm skies) or blue (for cool skies). They can **build off their initial swirls with more stripes**, filling the entire sky. For efficiency's sake, it is recommended to only use one color while drawing the stripes. Students can use a wider variety of colors later, when they begin coloring the stripes in.



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PROCEDURE:

(page 3 of 3)

Day 3: Warm-toned or Cool-toned Skies

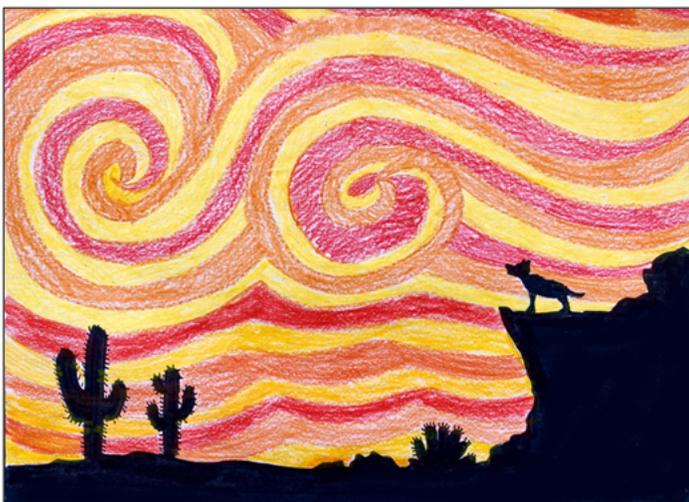
Once students finish filling their skies with swirling stripes, review which colors are considered “**warm**” (*reds, oranges, yellows*) and which colors are considered “**cool**” (*blues, greens, and purples*).

It might be helpful for students take out a selection of warm or cool colors from crayons, colored pencil, and marker boxes to help them stick with their chosen theme. **Students begin coloring inside the stripes**, varying colors and pressing firmly to achieve rich, opaque hues. Remind students to color in between their landscape elements too.

Day 4: Coloring!

Spend the final day of the project coloring the swirling stripes of the skies and finishing the dark landscapes as well.

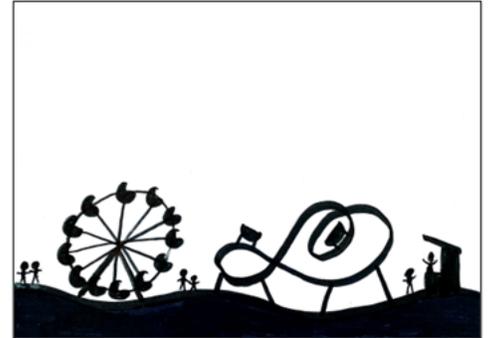
If some students finish early, they can complete the word search about Vincent van Gogh, or check out this [Coloring Page of The Starry Night](#) or other [Artist Coloring Pages!](#)



Swirling Skies

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1 Look at *The Starry Night* by Vincent van Gogh. Come up with your own idea of a landscape you could draw. **Draw your landscape at the bottom** of your paper, *leaving lots of space for the sky*. **Color your landscape black or another very dark color** (try coloring black first, then layering other colors over it).



2 Decide if you would like to color your sky with **warm-toned colors** (*reds, oranges, yellows*) or **cool-toned colors** (*greens, blues, purples*). Using either an orange pencil (for a warm sky) or a blue pencil (for a cool sky), **draw 2 or 3 large swirls in your sky** to create *movement*, making it look like wind is blowing.



3 Using the same orange or blue pencil, **add more lines following the movement of your first swirls**. Keep adding more and more lines until the entire sky is filled with stripes. *Don't forget to go all the way down to your landscape and into the corners of your paper*.



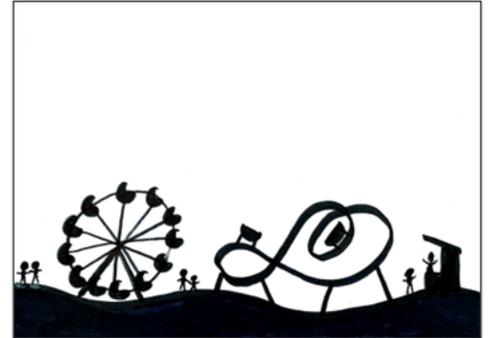
4 Gather colors that fit into your **warm** (*reds, oranges, yellows*) or **cool** (*greens, blues, purples*) color scheme. **Color each stripe of your sky using a different color from your chosen color scheme**. Your sky will be swirling with movement, just like Vincent van Gogh's!



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1 Look at *The Starry Night* by Vincent van Gogh. Come up with your own idea of a landscape you could draw. **Draw your landscape at the bottom of your paper, leaving lots of space for the sky.** **Color your landscape black or another very dark color** (try coloring black first, then layering other colors over it).



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4 Gather colors that fit into your **warm** (*reds, oranges, yellows*) or **cool** (*greens, blues, purples*) color scheme. **Color each stripe of your sky using a different color from your chosen color scheme.** Your sky will be swirling with movement, just like Vincent van Gogh's!





ELEMENTS OF ART



The visual components that make up a work of art

LINE

An element of art defined by a point moving in space. Line may be two-or three-dimensional, descriptive, implied, or abstract.

SHAPE

An element of art that is two-dimensional, flat, or limited to height and width.

FORM

An element of art that is three-dimensional and encloses volume; includes height, width AND depth (as in a cube, a sphere, a pyramid, or a cylinder). Form may also be free flowing.

VALUE

The lightness or darkness of tones or colors. White is the lightest value; black is the darkest. The value halfway between these extremes is called middle gray.

SPACE

An element of art by which positive and negative areas are defined or a sense of depth achieved in a work of art .

COLOR

An element of art made up of three properties: hue, value, and intensity. • Hue: name of color • Value: hue's lightness and darkness (a color's value changes when white or black is added) • Intensity: quality of brightness and purity (high intensity= color is strong and bright; low intensity= color is faint and dull)

TEXTURE

An element of art that refers to the way things feel, or the way they look as if they might feel if touched.



PRINCIPLES OF ART



The way an artist organizes elements in a work of art

BALANCE

The feeling of equilibrium or stability to a work of art. Balance can be either symmetrical or asymmetrical.

RHYTHM

the careful placement of repeated elements in a work of art to cause a visual tempo or beat.

MOVEMENT

Guiding the viewer's eye throughout the work of art through the implication of action.

EMPHASIS

A way of combining elements to highlight a focal point in the artwork.

SCALE or **PROPORTION**

The relationship of the size of certain elements to the whole and to each other.

PATTERN or **REPETITION**

The arrangement of alternated or repeated elements or motifs.

VARIETY or **CONTRAST**

The use of different shapes, sizes, colors, and/or textures in a work of art to create visual interest or to emphasize the difference between the elements.

HARMONY or **UNITY**

A way of combining similar elements in an artwork to accent their similarities (achieved through use of repetitions and subtle gradual changes).

WARM & COOL COLORS



WARM COLORS

reds, oranges, and yellows



COOL COLORS

greens, blues, and purples



Name: _____ Class: _____

Project: _____

	My Rating	Teacher's Rating
Key Concepts Did I understand and follow all directions?	Definitely! Yes Kind of Not Quite    	Definitely! Yes Kind of Not Quite    
Creativity Did I come up with my own ideas for my artwork?	Definitely! Yes Kind of Not Quite    	Definitely! Yes Kind of Not Quite    
Craftsmanship Was I neat and careful while working?	Definitely! Yes Kind of Not Quite    	Definitely! Yes Kind of Not Quite    
Effort Did I really try my hardest to make this my best work?	Definitely! Yes Kind of Not Quite    	Definitely! Yes Kind of Not Quite    

My Comments:

Teacher's Comments:

Name: _____ Class: _____

Project: _____

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My Comments:

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VINCENT VAN GOGH

WORDSEARCH

Q K F Y
L F G W K Z M F
S T A R R Y N I G H T E Q
G L R N Z U N E T H E R L A N D S
T P O S T I M P R E S S I O N I S M
B V A N G O G H I P W S M G R N
L W D J L M M E W Y E W
D D I L Q O B H Q K F I U
M Q B P E V N V C U K Y R Q C S E
K V W I A J E F B E Q F L Z E C M K V
Q J A I Y M I B S F N M E U T
M B N N C E U T H G I A M Z K K I
R J S P T D N I E A X F G C L B
K L Q V I T T J V V N A W X L
I S R M N C V Q V I N C E N T
G O Y G G P A I T B N
G D Z G



VINCENT
VANGOGH
NETHERLANDS
PAINTING

POSTIMPRESSIONISM
MOVEMENT
SWIRLS
STARRYNIGHT

VINCENT VAN GOGH

WORDSEARCH

Q K F Y
L F G W K Z M F
S T A R R Y N I G H T E Q
G L R N Z U N E T H E R L A N D S
T P O S T I M P R E S S I O N I S M
B V A N G O G H I P W S M G R N
L W D J L M M E W Y E W
D D I L Q O B H Q K F I U
M Q B P E V N V C U K Y R Q C S E
K V W I A J E F B E Q F L Z E C M K V
Q J A I Y M I B S F N M E U T
M B N N C E U T H G I A M Z K K I
R J S P T D N I E A X F G C L B
K L Q V I T T J V V N A W X L
I S R M N C V Q V I N C E N T
G O Y G G P A I T B N
G D Z G



VINCENT
VANGOGH
NETHERLANDS
PAINTING

POSTIMPRESSIONISM
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SWIRLS
STARRYNIGHT

VINCENT VAN GOGH

(1853-1890)



Vincent van Gogh was a Post-Impressionist painter from the Netherlands. He was inspired by the colors and the thick brushstrokes he saw in Impressionist paintings. Many of his paintings are known for their expressive brushstrokes and their sense of movement. His painting *The Starry Night* is one of the most widely recognized painting in the world.



The Starry Night, 1889

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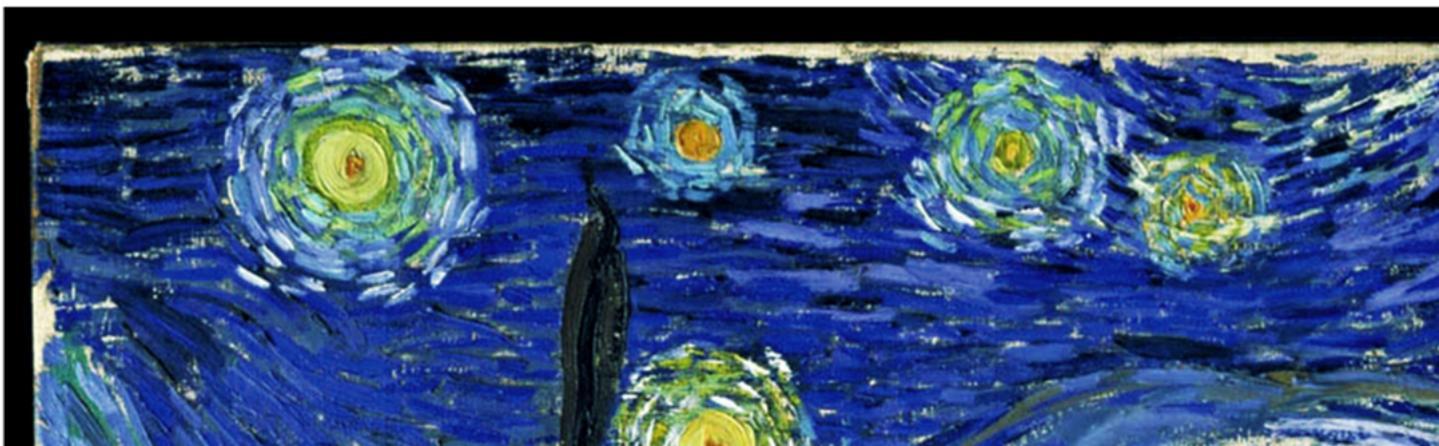
The Starry Night, 1889

VINCENT V

(18



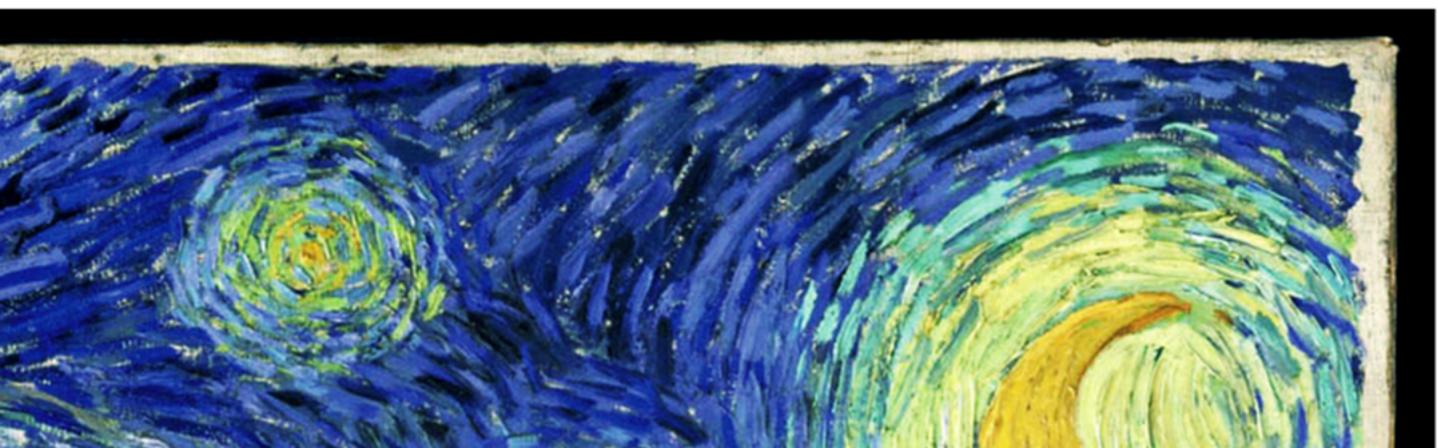
Vincent van Gogh
Netherlands. He
brushstrokes he s
paintings are kno
their sense of mov
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The Starry



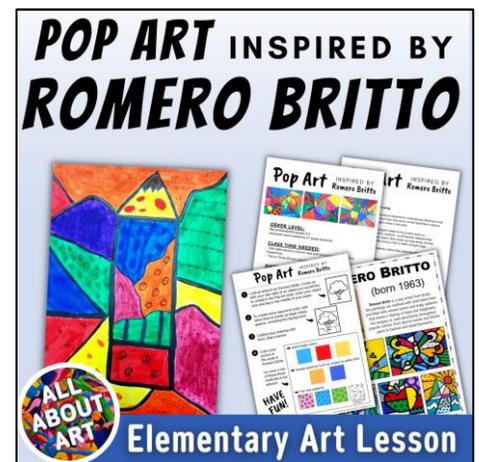
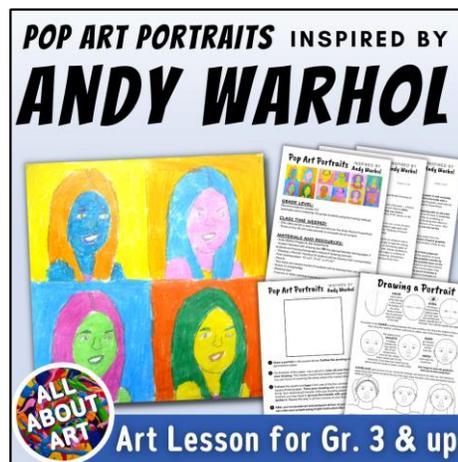
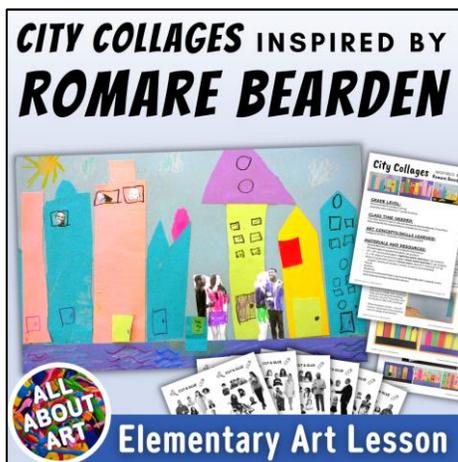
Night, 1889



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