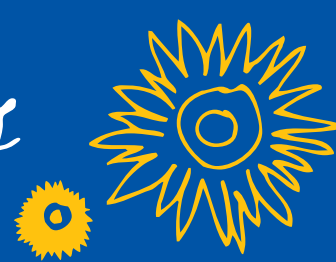




Van Gogh's Sunflowers Art Project Plan



Time: One to two 30-45 minute sessions, depending on skill of students

Project:

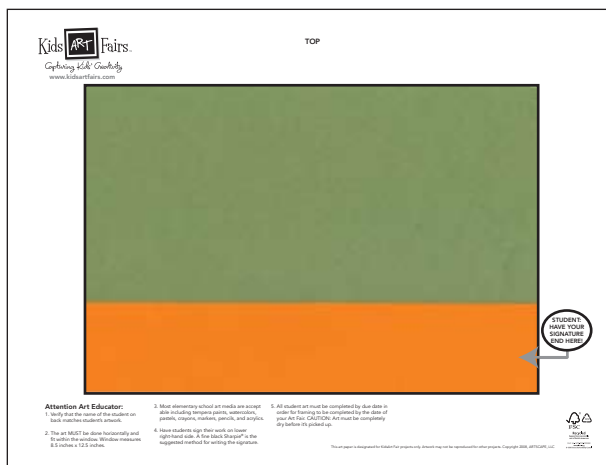
1. Share a little about Van Gogh's life and examples of his paintings.
2. Show a reproduction of one of Van Gogh's Sunflowers paintings – preferably his "Still Life: Vase With Twelve Sunflowers" – and some real sunflowers. (Van Gogh created many Sunflowers paintings. Some even have the same name but there are minor differences between each one.) Ask the class how sunflowers make them feel and what emotion they see in the painting.
3. Look at the painting with students and divide it into three sections – back wall, table, and vase of sunflowers. IMPORTANT: Your class will be creating horizontal sunflowers pieces, NOT vertical. The dimensions are 12 1/2" wide x 8 1/2" tall.



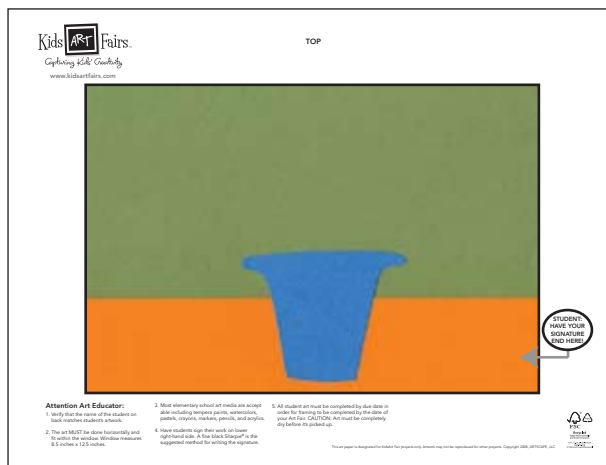
Artist Bio:

Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890) was a Dutch painter known for his highly emotional and dramatic paintings. He was one of the first artists to use color and brushstrokes to express emotion. This style was eventually referred to as Expressionism in the 20th century. His paintings are some of the most recognizable (and expensive) in the world.

4. Ask students to pick a piece of paper from the precut paper for their wall. Or, let them cut out their own, making sure it measures 12 1/2" wide x 8 1/2" tall.



5. Next, students should pick a piece of paper from the precut paper for their table. Or, let them cut out their own, making sure it measures 12 1/2" wide. The height should only be about 1/3 of the height of the paper. It's important to see more of the wall than the table. Students may glue the table to the wall color with a glue stick.



Materials:

- Reproductions of Van Gogh's Sunflowers series and "Iris" (Reference: www.vangoghgallery.com/painting/)
- Sunflowers, if available
- Assortment of vases
- Precut colored construction or art quality paper measuring 12 1/2" wide x 8 1/2" tall and 12 1/2" wide x 2 1/2" tall
- Additional colored construction paper and patterned paper
- Safety scissors and regular scissors
- Glue sticks
- Tempera or acrylic paint
- Paint brushes, palettes, and cups for water

Objectives:

- Identify a painter's style
- Use color to express emotion

Note:

Art can be created on other paper and then mounted within the 8 1/2" x 12 1/2" window of the KidsArt Fairs paper canvas. All artwork must be horizontal.

Van Gogh's Sunflowers

Art Project Plan

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Project continued:

6. Discuss different shapes of vases with students and show them some examples. Instruct students to draw a vase on a piece of colored paper. (Remind them that the vase should not be as tall as the piece of paper. There needs to be room to add flowers.) They may add designs to the vase with colored paint or other pieces of paper.
7. Ask students to cut their vases out and place on top of the table in their piece, making sure to leave plenty of room for flowers. Students should not glue the vase down yet.
8. Instruct students to study the painting closely and look at the differences between the flowers. The fresh ones are bright yellow and the dying ones are darker. Some of the blooms are facing the viewer and others tilt to the side. Discuss the following: Blooms – number of petals, colors, and sizes; centers of blooms – colors, number of seeds, and patterns; stems and leaves – number of leaves and position on the stems. Pass out tan paper. Allow ample time for students to paint sunflowers on the paper. (Or let students make their flowers completely out of cut paper.)
9. After the paint has dried, students may cut their flowers out and arrange above the vase. Once they like their design, they may glue the vase and flowers in place. Students may add stems and leaves with green colored paper or paint.
10. In one version of "Still Life: Vase With Twelve Sunflowers," Van Gogh signs his first name on the vase. Let students to sign their name on the vases, if they like.

Allow enough time for students to share their artwork with the class, discussing how they used color to express emotion in their pieces.



Tempera paint on cut paper mounted on KidsArt Fairs paper canvas in gallery-style frame.



Tempera paint on KidsArt Fairs paper canvas in gallery-style frame.



Pastel on KidsArt Fairs paper canvas in gallery-style frame.