

Focus on van Gogh

Iliana Sandoval

Materials

- ☐ 12 x 18" (30.5 x 46 cm) heavy drawing or watercolor paper
- ☐ magazines with landscape photos (e.g. *Travel and Leisure*, *National Geographic*)
- ☐ drawing pencils and erasers
- ☐ assorted colors tempera paints
- ☐ no. 1 and no. 2 watercolor brushes, palettes, and water cups
- ☐ reproductions of Vincent van Gogh's landscapes



Art history is an important part of the art curriculum. Learning about van Gogh's life and contributions and creating original landscapes in his style will enhance learning of essential studio and historical concepts. The Internet can be used to further explore art history in relation to the world today.

Essential Concepts

- 1.** Recognize and produce paintings showing movement with expressive lines and color.
- 2.** Apply understanding of foreground, middle ground, and background in a landscape.
- 3.** Understand facts regarding van Gogh's life and artwork.

Guiding Practice

- 1.** Display art reproductions and discuss van Gogh's life and artistic contributions.
- 2.** Point out expressive line and color showing movement and have students name different lines they see, such as curved lines, swirls, dashes, spirals, etc.

3. Discuss the use of line to blend colors, and have students point out objects found in the areas of foreground, middle ground, and background.

4. Call students attention to how things change in size as they are closer or farther away.

5. Demonstrate the use of a paintbrush and tempera paint to create a variety of expressive lines.

6. Have students create pencil contour drawings of a landscape showing foreground, middle ground, and background. Allow students to get landscape ideas from magazines such as *Travel and Leisure*.

7. Provide guidance as students paint their landscapes using van Gogh—style expressive line and color.

8. Follow up the painting activity by having students explore the following websites and complete the corresponding exercises:


www.vangoghmuseum.nl—Take the virtual tour and send the art teacher an e-card of any van Gogh painting.

www.vangoghgallery.com—Go to

world map of paintings and list what country has the greatest number of van Gogh paintings.

www.ibiblio.org/wm/paint/auth/gogh—Select your favorite landscape on this site and list the information: title, year, media, size, location.

Assessing Learning

- 1.** Display finished artwork and have students point out expressive lines and color and name objects in the foreground, middle ground, and background.
- 2.** Have students describe three things about van Gogh's life.
- 3.** Ask students which Internet site they enjoyed the most and why. 

Lesson online submitted by Iliana Sandoval, an art teacher in Coral Springs, Florida.

NATIONAL STANDARD

Students know and compare the characteristics of artworks in various eras and cultures.