

Starry Night Lesson Plan

Objectives:

- Investigate the process of how artist Van Gogh created *Starry Night*.
- Apply knowledge of color, line, movement, and expression to create a work of art inspired by Van Gogh's *Starry Night*.
- Compare the differences and similarities between original creations and Van Gogh's *Starry Night*.
- Reflect on how Van Gogh's skills were used to create original works of art.

Procedure:

1. Distribute "Exploring Starry Night" worksheet and have students fill it out as you investigate the masterwork.
2. Present Van Gogh's Starry Night image to the class.
Option: Don McLean's song/slideshow, '[Starry, Starry Night](#)'
3. Discussion:
The first thing you see is the focal point. The focal point is what first draws your eye, something that stands out. The focal point is the tree stump, it directs your eye into the starry sky. The thick sweeping brush strokes of swirls and stars bring you back to earth. Van Gogh used swirls made of small brush strokes with many different shades of blue to make the wind.
4. Now that the group has experienced the masterwork visually, perform a voluntary read-aloud with the artist bio.
- a read-aloud is a literacy strategy in which the teacher chooses volunteers to read out loud while the rest of the students follow along. This is beneficial for both comfortable and struggling readers.
5. Now that the children know Van Gogh's perspective, ask them what else Van Gogh saw from his bedroom window. Go around the group, and give each child time to respond.
6. Demonstrate how to create an original work of art inspired by Van Gogh's *Starry Night*.
(see "teacher demo" attachment)
7. Assessment:
 - Worksheet: "How did I use Van Gogh's skills to create my painting?"
 - Venn Diagram: "Compare and contrast your artwork with Vincent Van Gogh's *Starry Night* in terms of movement, color, line, and expression."

Links:

<http://www.vangoghgallery.com/painting/starrynightlyrics.html>

<http://gardenofpraise.com/art19.htm>

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/paint/artists/vangogh/coloring/starrynight.shtml>

Teacher Demonstration

Materials:

- watercolor paper, pencils, oil pastels, black watercolor paint, water cups, large watercolor brushes

1. Distribute watercolor paper
2. With a pencil, draw a horizon line to divide sky from ground
3. With a pencil, draw the “tree” towards the left half using wavy lines. The tree should start at the bottom paper and should at least pass the horizon line. The tree is the closest object to the viewer (objects get smaller as they recede in space)
4. With pencil, draw the “village” by making a row of squares and rectangles at the bottom of the page next to the “tree.” Keep drawing rows of squares and rectangles until you hit the horizon line. Each row should get smaller as you get closer to the horizon line (objects get smaller as they recede in space).
5. With a blue oil pastel, draw swirly lines in the sky. Trace the swirly lines with another blueish color, be very careful not to intersect lines and to leave a little bit of space in between lines. Trace again with another blueish color radiating from previous swirly lines. Repeat until the sky is full of blueish swirls that radiate from each other in order to create movement. This should look kind of like a “mola” with oil pastel.
6. With a green pastel, draw curvy lines that look like half an oval underneath the horizon line. Fill in the curvy line with smaller lines that repeat the direction of the original - sort of like a rainbow but with greenish hues. This should start looking like hills. Try not to let the lines intersect and leave a little bit of space in between each line.
7. With a black pastel, outline the “tree” shape and fill it in with short wavy strokes of line. Then take a brown oil pastel and fill in any of the remaining negative space with short wavy strokes of line. Try not to let the lines intersect and leave a little bit of space in between each line.
8. Use warm oil pastel colors to fill in the village with straight and horizontal lines.
9. Use black watercolor to brush over the entire drawing. The oil pastel should resist the watercolor and show through unless their drawing is really light. If it turns out grey, you may need to make a second pass if the paint was too watered-down. If students do not use enough water, just re-wet and spread the paint more evenly and blot if necessary.
10. Voila! A Starry Night masterpiece :)

Name: _____

How did I use Van Gogh's skills to create my painting?

Van Gogh's skill	How I used the skill	Where I used the skill

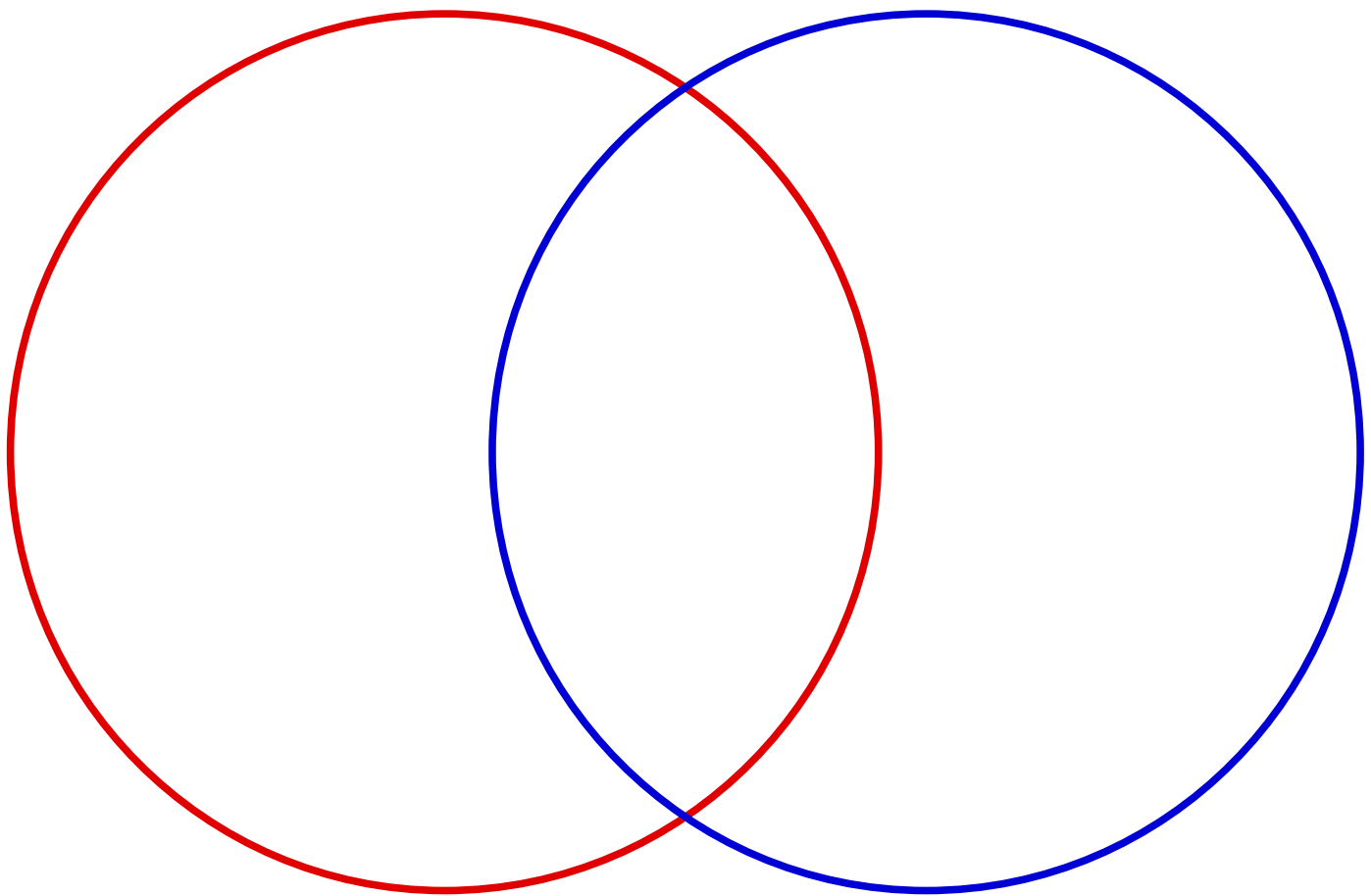


Vincent Van Gogh was born in 1853 and died in 1890. He is probably one of the most well known and influential artists of the 19th century. He painted landscapes and portraits full of vivid colors and passionate feelings. The painting, Starry Night, is one of the most well known images in the world. Vincent Van Gogh painted it in 1889 while he was in the hospital. This painting is a view from his bedroom window in the French countryside. The night sky is filled with swirling clouds, glowing stars, and a bright moon. The sky keeps the viewer's eyes moving around the painting. When a painting keeps the viewer's eye moving around, it is called movement which is a principle of design. Below the rolling hills of the horizon line is a peaceful small village. To the left of the painting there is a big dark mysterious tree-like shape, much larger compared to the size of other objects in the painting and gives the viewer the opportunity to guess what it is. Each day hundreds of people crowd around the original painting and come up with their own perspective of what this painting means.

"This morning I saw the country from my window a long time before sunrise," the artist wrote to his brother Theo, "with nothing but the morning star, which looked very big."

Name: _____

Compare and contrast your artwork with Vincent Van Gogh's Starry Night in terms of movement, color, line, and expression.



My Artwork

Starry Night

Exploring Starry Night

What is the first thing that you see?

What is the large dark thing on the left?

What colors do you see?

Are any colors repeated?

How did the artist use line to make the wind?

Why do you think the painting is called Starry Night?

How do you think van Gogh felt when he created the painting?

What do you feel when you look at the painting? Is it peaceful, frightening, and exciting?

What do you think the artist wants to you see?