
Looking at Van Gogh

Van
Gogh
Museum

Amsterdam

Nature

Welcome to the Van Gogh Museum! Learn all about Vincent van Gogh's work with this guide. Form your own, personal opinion of his paintings. Make use of what you see, what you *know*, and what you can *find out*.

Big or small, nature was proof to Vincent that there was a God. He was inspired by nature. Vincent painted vast landscapes but also tiny details of plants and animals.



1 Choose

Find a painting with a detail from nature: for example plants or animals which are magnified, as if you are really close by. Which did you choose?

Title

Year

Place

2 What do you see?

Describe below what you see in the painting. Include the colours. Start at the top left and finish bottom right.

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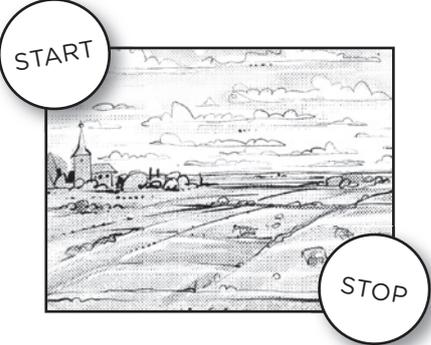
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3 Zoom in

Vincent has zoomed in on a bit of a landscape. It's as if he has framed his vision.

You can do this too. Make a "frame" with your thumbs and forefingers and move it around between your eyes and the painting. Find the framing you like best and draw it here:

You probably employ framing quite often - when you take a photo, for example.



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4 Zoom out

In what kind of landscape do you think Vincent found this detail? Find a suitable landscape to go with the detail.

Title

Year

Place

5 Format

A What shape of canvas did Vincent paint his landscape on? Choose one.

Portrait

Landscape

Square



B Why do you think Vincent chose this format?

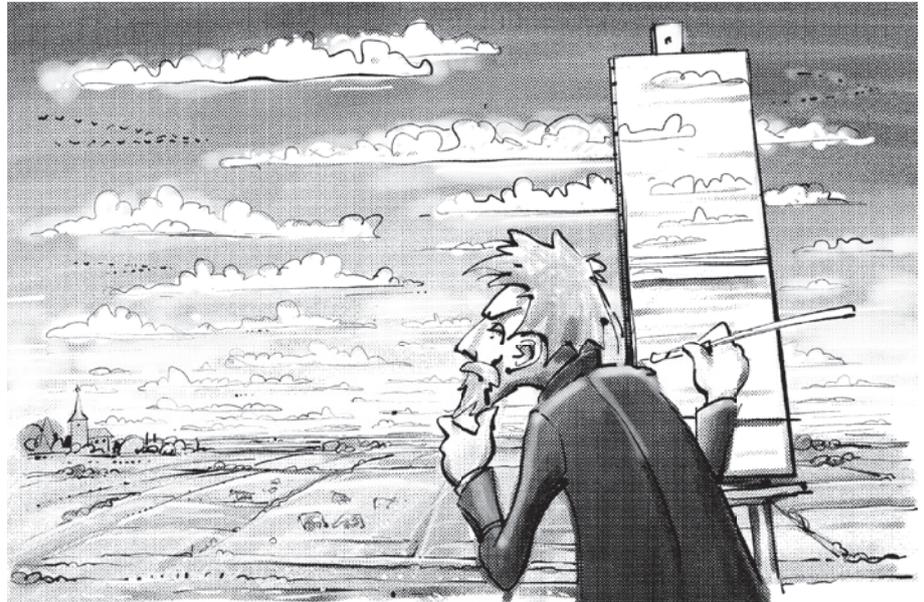
Because

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6 Horizon

A Where do you see the horizon in the painting? Draw the horizon in the box on the left (1). Are there lines running from the foreground to the horizon? If so, draw these in your landscape.

B Draw the landscape in the box on the right (2), but this time with a lower horizon. What happens?

With a lower horizon you see **more / less** of the landscape.



7 Style

Vincent often used specific brushstrokes for special effects: thick, thin, wavy, straight and lots more. Are the brushstrokes in your landscape easy to see?

A Look closely. What brushstrokes do you see? Put a tick next to them. Now look from a distance. What effects do you see? Tick them off.

B Which brushstrokes cause which effects? Draw lines to connect the strokes with the effects they produce.

Brushstroke

Short brushstrokes next to each other, in different colours.

Short brushstrokes of the same colour in shades of light and dark.

Brushstrokes next to each other, in the same direction.

Wavy brushstrokes.

Effect

There's movement in the landscape.

The different colours blend into one new colour.

The landscape vibrates in the sunlight.

The brushstrokes emphasize the shapes in the landscape.

