



# Art Collector

Teaching package

## HELENE & VINCENT

**Helene Kröller-Müller** had one undisputed favourite: Vincent van Gogh. She collected about 90 of his paintings and 180 works on paper. For her, Vincent was an artist who defied categorization and he was given (literally) a central position in her museum.



**1** Find the works by Van Gogh and look at the space where they hang. What do you notice?

..... x

.....

**2** How many works by Vincent are currently on display?

..... x paintings

..... x works on paper

**3** How many works from your collection can you find?

..... x

**4** A brief history of Van Gogh. Fill in the missing words and numbers.

Vincent begins painting at the age of 27. He is not naturally talented, but practice makes

perfect and in ..... he creates his *Aardappeleters*. The work is based on many portrait studies: such as

.....

....., dated .....

The reactions are scathing: badly painted, with strange figures, but Vincent perseveres. He has another goal. He wants to show how hard life is for the farmers.

**5** Vincent found it difficult to paint a pose correctly. That's why he practiced endlessly. Look for another work in which you can see this clearly.

Artist: .....

Title: .....

..... Date: .....



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**6** What do you think could be improved?

.....

.....

**7** Vincent's life changes forever when he goes to France. The French sun brings colour to his work. His painting style changes completely.

A (fictional) note from Vincent. Can you fill it in?

Dear brother,  
 You were right, it's great here. I'm now  
 using bright .....

Mainly blue and .....

Lots of contrast. I'm painting with quick  
 .....

Now I hope to sell something. Would be nice  
 Vincent

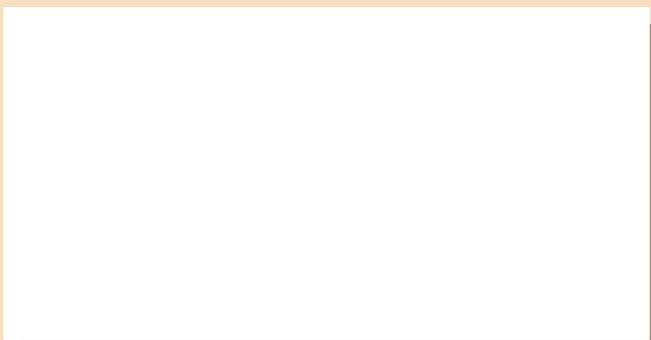
**8** Choose a work from your collection that he made in France.

Artist: ..... 

Title: .....

..... Date: .....

**9** Look carefully at his painting technique. Copy it in the sketch box below.



**10** In your view, what is the effect of this painting style?

.....

**11** On one of the walls you will see when Helene bought the works and what she paid. Can you find the purchase price of one of your works? Multiply this by 11 to find out how much that would be today. Purchase price:

..... guilders x 11 = € .....

**12** What do you think: expensive or a bargain?

.....

**13** In 1912, Helene travels with her advisor H.P. Bremmer to Paris. In one weekend they buy fourteen Van Goghs. Helene writes: 'He bought them with a bid, a third of the asking price. He was trembling like a leaf when he left, he was so happy with his catch'.

Make one last round. With which work (for a third of the price) could we make you tremble with joy?

Artist: ..... 

Title: .....

..... Date: .....

Because: .....

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