

## Art Masterpiece: 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, Lesson 2 (November)

### Vincent Van Gogh (1853 – 1890)

#### *Starry Night* (1889)

Oil on Canvas, 29" x 36 ¼" - The Museum of Modern Art, New York

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**Art Style:** Expressionism

**Art Terms:** Movement, Line, Color (Warm and Cool)

**Activity:** Watercolor Resist "Starry Night" Landscape

**Medium:** Watercolor and Crayon

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#### Meet the Artist

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- He was born in 1853 in The Netherlands.
- He wanted to be a preacher, but he was actually a schoolteacher in England, and then he became an art dealer.
- After that period of time, he moved to France and painted or drew 2000 works of art in the next 10 years of his life.
- His closest friend and relative was his brother, Theo, who also supported him financially. He spent his life in poverty, choosing to spend money on paints rather than food to eat.
- While he was strongly influenced by the Impressionists of the day, he became much bolder in his paintings. He was a pioneer for Expressionism. Expressionists profoundly show their emotions through their paintings.
- Van Gogh never felt that his art was appreciated, which pained him very much. It wasn't entirely true; many of his fellow painters saw him as a genius. He was a prolific painter and in the end, produced a painting a day. However, he only sold 1 painting during his lifetime.
- After Van Gogh's death, it was his brother Theo's wife who made sure that Vincent Van Gogh got the attention he deserved in his lifetime. His paintings are some of the most expensive in the world to purchase.

#### Art Style

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##### Expressionism

- Art that is meant to express emotions rather than physical reality.

## Art Terms

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### Movement

- The path the viewer's eye takes through the artwork, often to a focal area. It can be directed along lines, edges, shapes and color.

### Line

- An element of art. A continuous path of a point as it moves across a surface. A line can vary in length, width, direction, curvature or color.

### Color (Warm and Cool)

- Warm colors come forward toward the eye and cool colors recede or fall into the distance. Think of the sun for **warm colors** – Red, Yellow, Orange. Think of distant hills or a snowy day for **cool colors** – Green, Blue, Violet.

## Questions about *Starry Night*

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- What colors do you see? Are they mostly cool colors or warm?
- What do the swirling lines remind you of? What do they represent?
- How does this motion make you feel?
- What is the dark image in the middle of the painting?
- What time of day is it?
- Is *Starry Night* a good title?
- Would you want it in your room?
- How do you think Van Gogh felt when he painted it? What is he expressing?

## Activity

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Watercolor Resist "Starry Night" Landscape - Watercolor and Crayon

## Supplies

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Watercolor paper – 8 1/2" x 11"

Black construction paper – 4.5" x 11"

Crayons – blue, orange, yellow, white

\*Tempera paint – blue (watered-down)

\*Paint brushes or sponge brushes

Scissors

Pencils

Glue sticks

\*By the sink, set up one or two watercolor stations with watered-down blue tempera paint and wide paint brushes or sponge brushes.

### **\*\*Art Guide Notes\*\***

This lesson will be used for the “**Art Walk**” in January. Please leave artwork in your grade level class folder located in the filing cabinet in room 6. If you would like to help with preparation for the “**Art Walk**” please let one of the Art Masterpiece coordinators know.

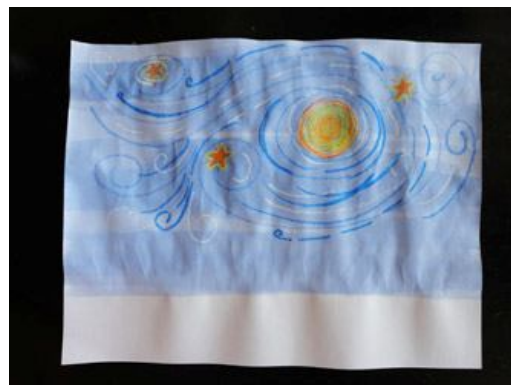
### **Directions**

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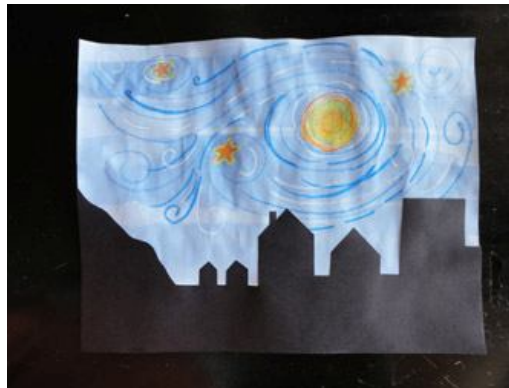
1. Give each student one sheet of watercolor paper, one sheet of black construction paper and crayons (students will need to share crayons).
2. Have students write their name and room # on the back of the black paper.
3. The paper orientation needs to be horizontal/landscape for this lesson.
4. Draw a starry night using blue, orange, yellow and white crayons.
5. Draw lines to show movement such as swirling clouds or shooting stars in the sky on the top half of the paper. Let the students know that the white crayon will show up when the paper is color washed with blue paint. Remind students to leave the bottom 2” or so of the paper empty so they can glue their silhouette village under the sky.



6. Once they have created their sky have them go to the paint table to add the watercolor wash. **DO NOT COLOR WASH THE LOWEST 2 INCHES OF PAPER SO THE GLUE WILL STICK.**



7. When they are done, set the paper aside to dry while they create their silhouette village.
8. The students can use a pencil to draw the outlines of buildings or houses on the black construction paper. They will be creating a strip about 2"- 4" tall, solid on the bottom and with the outline of buildings at the top.
9. Have them cut out their silhouette village. Be careful to create a strip, and not individual pieces. Little lit windows can be added to houses and buildings with the crayons.
10. Using glue sticks, have the students glue their village on the bottom of their paper.



11. When the students are done have them title their artwork. Write the title on a label sticker and place it on the back of their work.

**“Art Walk”** - Remember to please leave the artwork in your grade level class folder located in the filing cabinet in room 6. Make sure the students names are on the back of their work.