



# Vincent van Gogh and his sunflowers



## Wisconsin Art Standards

**C.4.1** – Explore the elements and principles of design.

**C.4.7** – Develop basic skills to produce quality art.

**D.4.4** – Learn basic concepts in art.

**H.4.1** – Study the patterns and colors in nature.

**I.4.7** – Work alone and with others to develop visual ideas and objects.

## National Standards

**VA:Cr1.2.Ka** – Engage collaboratively in creative art-making in response to an artistic problem.

**VA:Cn10.1.3a** – Develop a work of art based on observations of surroundings.

## Vocabulary

Anther  
Petal  
Style  
Blending  
Cray-Pas®  
Shape

Tissue paper  
Leaves  
Stamen  
Vincent van Gogh  
Line stigma  
Warm colors

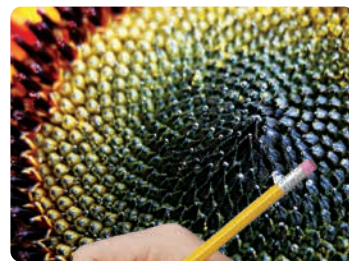
## Objectives

*Students will...*

- Learn technical skills such as drawing, gluing, cutting, rolling, and blending
- Study the elements of design: line, shape, and color
- Create their own conceptual/expressive sunflower imitating van Gogh's sunflowers

# Introduction

Vincent van Gogh used colors to communicate a feeling or mood. He was fascinated with the bright colors that Impressionist painters used. Van Gogh was especially drawn to the color yellow, as seen in his paintings of sunflowers. Start by introducing your students to different paintings by van Gogh. They can compare and analyze how they are different and how they are the same. Look closely at his sunflower paintings and discuss what an individual sunflower looks like. What color are they? What are the parts of a flower?



## Directions

1 Show a real sunflower to the class and discuss its parts. What shape are the petals? What shapes are the parts of the flower broken into? Have students practice drawing sunflowers. Give them each a 9" x 12" sheet of white paper, and show them how to draw a large sunflower head to fill the paper, using their eraser first. Emphasize that they should not draw stems or leaves. When they are satisfied with their drawing, they should go over the eraser lines with a pencil and then brush off the eraser.

2 Using only warm colors, give the students a demonstration on how to blend Cray-Pas®. Discuss the warm colors on the color wheel and the ones in their Cray-Pas® box.

3 Have students cut out their flowers when they finish coloring them.

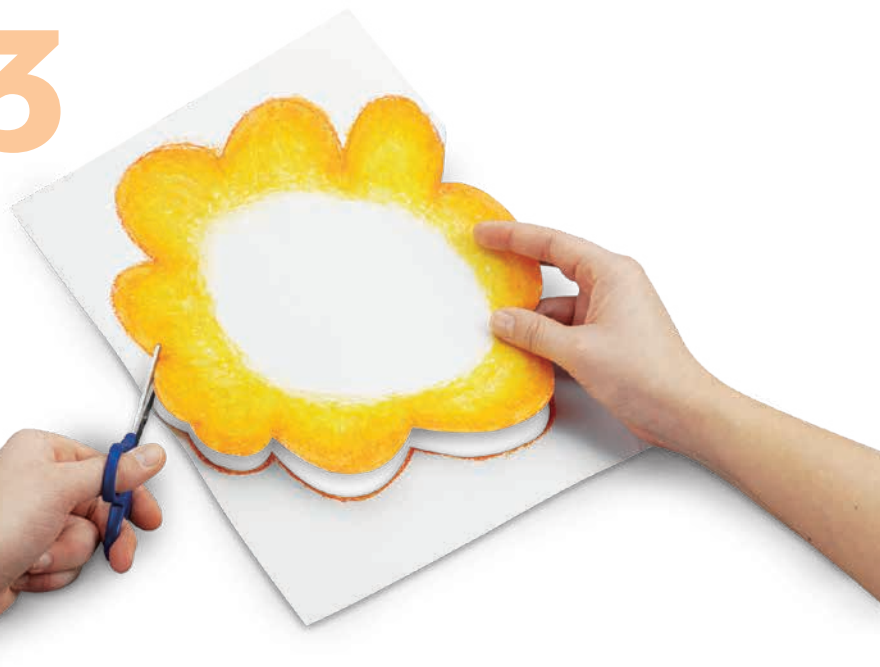
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## Directions

Show students how to roll small pieces of tissue paper into balls to use for the seed center. Use green or brown tissue paper. Put a small dot of glue in the center of the flower, cover it with a tissue ball, and hold it in place for 10 seconds. Continue gluing until the center is full of tissue.

Once the center is filled with tissue balls, have students use a variety of seeds to decorate the sunflower even further. They can put the seeds on the tissue balls or around the center as an added detail. Each sunflower will be unique.

Then make a large vase in the style of van Gogh's "Sunflowers" vase. Add student flowers, stems, and leaves to the vase individually to produce a collaborative print of Vincent van Gogh's "Sunflowers." Add his signature to the vase to make it a complete reproduction. This makes for a colorful display in any school hallway!

## Assessment

*Did students ...*

- Understand flowers and their parts?
- Understand the van Gogh reproductions?
- Draw a big enough sunflower?
- Use the correct warm colors and understand the blending process?
- Understand how to finish the flower centers with seeds and tissue?



## Materials

- Nasco Budget White Sulphite Drawing Paper, 500 sheets, 9" x 12", 80 lb. ([9700928](#))
- Dixon® No. 2 Pencils, pkg. of 12 ([9718707](#))
- Sakura Cray-Pas® Junior Artist™ Oil Pastels Colorpack™ of 288 ([9717694](#))  
Set of 25 ([9714428](#))
- Nasco Scissors, 5" – blunt tip  
Classroom pack of 24 ([9726128](#))  
Individual ([9725780](#))
- Pacon® Spectra® Art Tissue™, pkgs. of 24, 20" x 30"  
Canary — [[9701228\(B\)](#)]  
Emerald Green — [[9701228\(N\)](#)]  
Nasco Washable School Glue, 8 oz. ([9722164](#))
- Assortment of seeds & beans:  
Sunflower seeds, 3½ g ([SB07340](#))  
Corn, 1 lb. ([SA05736](#))  
Wheat, 1 oz. ([SA05740](#))

## Other materials

- Real sunflowers
- Sunflower books
- Online prints of "Starry Night" and "Café at Night"

