



## Lesson Plan: Collaborative Van Gogh Mural

**Date:**

**Time:** 70 minutes

**Unit:** Art History & Techniques – Inspired by Vincent van Gogh

**Grade Level:** 6th-8th Grade

**Subject:** Art

### Lesson Overview

Students will work together to recreate one of Vincent van Gogh's iconic paintings by coloring enlarged sections of the painting using oil pastels. Each student will be responsible for coloring a piece of the mural, which will be reassembled to form a collaborative, large-scale artwork.

Through this activity, students will explore van Gogh's style and use of color, as well as practice using oil pastels.

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## Lesson Objectives:

### By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

1. Apply oil pastel techniques to replicate part of a Van Gogh painting.
  2. Collaborate with classmates to create a cohesive large-scale mural inspired by Van Gogh's work.
  3. Recognize key features of Van Gogh's style, such as his use of color, texture, and expressive brushstrokes.
  4. Understand how individual pieces can come together to create a unified artwork.
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## Materials & Supplies:

- Enlarged coloring pages of a Van Gogh painting, divided into sections (1 piece per student)
  - Oil pastels (various colors for each student)
  - Reference images of the original Van Gogh painting
  - Tape or glue (to reassemble the mural)
  - Large paper or poster board for mounting the mural
  - Aprons or smocks (optional)
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## Key Vocabulary:

- **Mural:** A large artwork painted or applied directly on a wall or surface.
  - **Collaborative Art:** Art created by multiple people working together.
  - **Oil Pastels:** A drawing medium similar to crayons but with richer, more vibrant color blending.
  - **Impressionism/Post-Impressionism:** Art movements that focus on light, color, and capturing a moment or feeling.
  - **Brushstroke:** The marks made by a paintbrush (or represented in other media), characteristic of an artist's style.
  - **Texture:** The feel or appearance of a surface; how rough, smooth, or layered something looks.
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## Lesson Targets:

1. **Understand Van Gogh's Style:** Students will examine Van Gogh's use of color, texture, and emotion in his artwork.

2. **Color with Oil Pastels:** Students will apply oil pastels to their individual piece, focusing on texture, blending, and color vibrancy.
  3. **Collaborate to Assemble the Mural:** Students will combine their colored sections to reassemble the full mural and reflect on how their individual contributions fit into the whole.
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### **Lesson Introduction (10 minutes):**

1. **Introduction to Van Gogh:**
    - Begin with a brief overview of Vincent van Gogh's life and artistic contributions.
    - Show examples of his most famous works (e.g., *Starry Night*, *Sunflowers*) and discuss his use of bold colors and expressive brushstrokes.
    - Explain that the class will recreate one of Van Gogh's works by coloring enlarged sections of a painting using oil pastels.
  2. **Demonstration of Oil Pastels:**
    - Show students how to use oil pastels, focusing on blending colors, layering, and creating texture similar to Van Gogh's brushstrokes.
    - Emphasize how pastels can create a sense of depth and movement in their artwork.
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### **Work Time: Coloring Individual Pieces (50 minutes):**

1. **Distribute Pieces:**
    - Give each student a section of the enlarged Van Gogh coloring page.
    - Provide students with a reference image of the original Van Gogh painting to guide their color choices.
  2. **Coloring Process:**
    - Encourage students to use the oil pastels to blend colors and mimic Van Gogh's vibrant, expressive style.
    - Remind students to pay attention to texture—creating thick, layered colors that mirror the look of Van Gogh's brushstrokes.
    - Circulate around the room to provide feedback and help students with blending techniques or color selection.
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### **Clean-Up & Mural Assembly (10 minutes):**

1. **Clean-Up:**
  - Have students clean up their workspaces and return any unused materials.
2. **Mural Assembly:**

- Once all pieces are completed, work with the class to reassemble the mural by attaching the individual pieces in the correct order on a large paper or poster board.
  - Encourage students to look for connections between their pieces and their classmates' work, discussing how the colors and textures come together.
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## **Reflection & Discussion:**

### **1. Class Discussion:**

- Gather the class around the completed mural and engage them in a discussion about the process:
    - How does the mural look as a whole compared to the individual pieces?
    - What challenges did you face while using oil pastels?
    - How did you incorporate Van Gogh's style into your piece?
  - Discuss the importance of collaboration in creating a large artwork and how each individual piece contributes to the overall success of the project.
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## **Differentiation Strategies:**

- **ESE (Exceptional Student Education) Learners:**
    - Provide additional assistance with fine motor skills when using oil pastels.
    - Break down the task into smaller steps and offer individual support.
    - Pair students with a peer to help them follow instructions and complete their section.
  - **ELL (English Language Learners):**
    - Use visual aids (diagrams, reference images) to explain key vocabulary.
    - Provide instructions in both English and the student's native language, if possible.
    - Model techniques through live demonstrations and provide step-by-step guidance.
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## **Assessment:**

- **Formative Assessment:** Monitor students' ability to use oil pastels, blend colors, and create texture. Provide feedback on how well they are emulating Van Gogh's style.
- **Participation:** Ensure each student contributes to the mural and follows instructions during the coloring and assembly process.
- **Final Reflection:** Gauge understanding by asking students to reflect on the collaborative process and their own creative choices.

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**Closing Quote:**

“In spite of everything, I shall rise again: I will take up my pencil, which I have forsaken in my great discouragement, and I will go on with my drawing.” – **Vincent van Gogh**