

# Famous Paintings





The *Mona Lisa* is famous for her smile.

## The *Mona Lisa*

Looking at paintings can make us think about people we've never met and places and things we've never seen. One painting that's famous around the world is the *Mona Lisa*. It was painted by Leonardo da Vinci about 500 years ago.

The most famous part of the *Mona Lisa* is the woman's smile. Even though she's smiling, she seems to look sad. Leonardo da Vinci made her look this way by making the edges of her mouth seem to fade away. Her famous smile makes people wonder what she was thinking.

### Key Notes:

Describe the *Mona Lisa*.

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*The Scream shows  
deep feelings.*

## ***The Scream***

In *The Scream*, Edvard Munch painted what he saw in his town and what he felt about it. The sky is bright red. A person, with eyes wide open, holds its head and screams. Wavy lines seem to carry the sound far away.

The sky was red because of dust from a volcano. The volcano dust made bright sunsets around the world. Edvard Munch painted *The Scream* to show how strange the world looked to him. Perhaps he was scared or unhappy and those were the feelings he painted.

### **Key Notes:**

**Create another title for *The Scream*. Explain your choice.**

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Van Gogh painted sunflowers in several paintings.

## Sunflowers

Some artists show their feelings by painting something that they think is beautiful. They want to capture what they see so that others can see it in the same way. Artist Vincent van Gogh wanted others to see the colors he saw in sunflowers.

Vincent van Gogh painted several Sunflowers paintings. In them, he brushed on thick yellow and orange paint to make the flowers look real and bright. Van Gogh painted them in this way to try and capture the way he saw the brightness of their colors.

### Key Notes:

Why might an artist paint the same subject several times?

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Monet painted  
this scene of his  
own pond.

## ***Water-Lily Pond***

While some artists paint what they see, others paint what a scene looks like to them. Artist Claude Monet liked to paint how light changed the way things looked.

Someone who stands near *Water-Lily Pond* sees dabs of paint, not flowers and water. Not until the person stands farther back from the painting does the scene become clear. Then, it becomes possible to see what Claude Monet saw. There are lilies on a pond that seem to blend into one another, shining and changing color in the water and sunlight.

### **Key Notes:**

How does *Water-Lily Pond* look different when a person stands back from it?

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