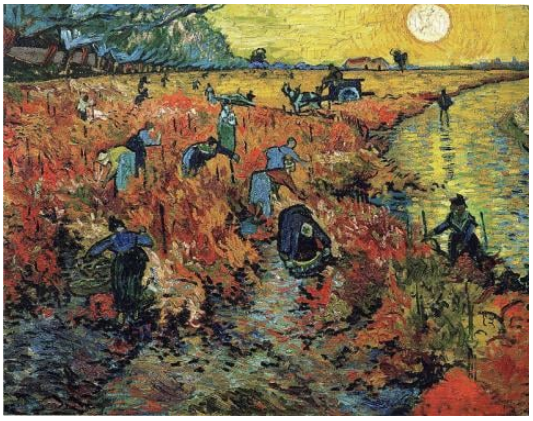
# Vincent van Gogh at AwesomeStories



In July of 1890, Vincent van Gogh, a Dutch artist living in the French village of Auvers, had created nearly eighty paintings in less than three months.

In recent weeks, he'd been attracted by the fields and plains not far from the inn where he lived that summer. At the height of his genius, the prolific artist was despondent.

Thirty-seven years old, Vincent was financially supported by an ailing brother and had produced more than eight hundred paintings which no one wanted to buy. In his entire career, it is believed that van Gogh sold only one work—"The Red Vineyard"—which he painted in 1888 (and Anna Boch purchased in 1890).

At dusk—on Sunday, the 27th of July, 1890—Vincent walked to a field in Auvers-sur-Oise and ended his life.

In this story about van Gogh, his life and his stunning art, explore:

- Who was Vincent?
- Which artists influenced him?
- How did he develop his talents?
- How did his relationships shape his life?
- Why did he often work at such a furious pace?
- Which paintings did he create during the last months of his life?

In this story behind the art, also discover Vincent the man:

- Study his paintings through a virtual art show;
- See where he worked and lived;
- Examine some of his early influences and read some of his letters;
- Uncover his thoughts as he created some of the world's finest masterpieces;
- Track how his paintings evolved from his use of dark-to-brilliant colors; and
- Gain a better understanding of a genius whose work remains among the most highly valued in the world.

Learning about the life and work of this amazing Dutch artist comes alive at AwesomeStories. Depending on a

teacher's preference, students can:

- "See" the story unfolding before their eyes in class (then view it, with their parents, at home);
- "Experience" the story (via Vincent's own words and paintings);
- "Think about" the story (with essential questions, such as "How do we move forward when life seems so upsetting?"); and
- "Study" the story (with lots of pictures and videos, including clips about van Gogh and the power of art and modern culture).

Using an integrated approach—combining visual arts, historical materials, social studies and language arts—students investigate the story in personalized-learning fashion with words and concepts suitable for a range of achievement levels. Students can then create their own stories, using the AwesomeStories' archive of primary sources, to produce their own related stories to share with their class, their family and (if accepted for publication) … the whole online world!

## Credits:

This image depicts "The Red Vineyard," which Vincent van Gogh created in Arles, France during November of 1888. The artist Anna Boch purchased this painting in 1890—reportedly the only-known work which Vincent sold during his lifetime. The oil-on-canvas is now owned by the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts (in Moscow).

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Vincent-van-Gogh-at-AwesomeStories

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Vincent-van-Gogh-at-AwesomeStories

## Questions 2 Ponder

### How Do We Move Forward When Life Seems So Upsetting?

Vincent van Gogh was a very productive painter whose works of art are now among the most-valuable in the world. During his lifetime, however, Vincent is believed to have sold only one painting.

He once told Theo, his brother: "I can't change the fact that my paintings don't sell. But the time will come when people will recognize that they are worth more than the value of the paints used in the picture."

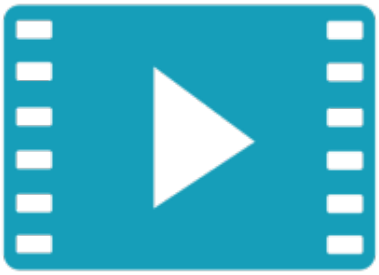
Do you think that Vincent really believed that statement—or—do you think that he merely expressed such thoughts so that he didn't seem like a failure? Explain your answer.

At the height of his genius, Vincent was working so hard that he was able to create one brilliant masterpiece after another. Even though his paintings weren't selling, Vincent kept producing. How could Vincent keep moving forward, creating more and more art, despite the upsetting fact that no one was buying his work?

How should we value the work of Vincent's paintings before anyone bought them? Should we measure the worth of his efforts by how much money his paintings earned? Why, or why not?

What makes something, like a painting, valuable? If no one wants to buy the painting, does that mean it's worthless? Why, or why not?

## Media Stream



## Modern Culture and Vincent van Gogh

Online, via YouTube.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Modern-Culture-and-Vincent-van-Gogh