

ART · Y4–Y6

Photography & Digital Art

Knowledge Organiser — Y4–Y6

Key vocabulary

1

Composition

How the elements of a photograph are arranged within the frame. Good composition guides the viewer's eye to the subject.

2

Rule of thirds

An imaginary 3x3 grid over the image. Placing the subject on the intersection points creates a more dynamic composition than placing it in the centre.

3

Foreground / Background

Foreground: objects closest to the camera. Background: objects furthest away. Using both creates depth.

4

Leading lines

Lines within the image that guide the viewer's eye toward the subject — roads, fences, rivers, shadows.

5

Framing

Using elements in the scene (doorways, branches, windows) to frame the subject and draw attention to it.

6

Documentary photography

Photography that records real events, people, and places. Aims to tell true stories.

Example: Dorothea Lange — Great Depression; Kevin Carter — 1994 Sudan famine



Photographers to study

Photography as art and historical

- ANSEL ADAMS (1902–1984): Black and white landscapes of the American West. Master of composition and tonal range.
- DOROTHEA LANGE (1895–1965): Documentary photography of the Great Depression. 'Migrant Mother' (1936) is one of the most recognised photographs ever taken.
- HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON (1908–2004): Coined the 'decisive moment' — capturing the exact right instant. Street photography in black and white.
- NICK UT (b.1951): Photojournalism. 'The Terror of War' (1972) — Vietnam. Shows how photography can change history and public opinion.
- YOUSUF KARSH (1908–2002): Studio portrait photography. His photograph of Churchill (1941) is one of the most widely reproduced ever taken.
- ASK: What was the photographer trying to say? What did they include and exclude? What feeling does it produce?

