

ART · GRADES 3–6

Famous Artists

Eight masters across time and place

The eight artists at a glance

Artist	Where	When	Famous for
Leonardo da Vinci	Italy	1452–1519	Mona Lisa, Last Supper, inventions
Hokusai	Japan	1760–1849	The Great Wave, woodblock prints
Vincent van Gogh	Netherlands	1853–1890	Sunflowers, Starry Night, swirls
Claude Monet	France	1840–1926	Water Lilies, Impressionism, gardens
Pablo Picasso	Spain	1881–1973	Cubism, Guernica, breaking the rules
Georgia O'Keeffe	USA	1887–1986	Giant flowers, desert landscapes
Frida Kahlo	Mexico	1907–1954	Self-portraits, surrealism, identity
Jean-Michel Basquiat	USA	1960–1988	Neo-expressionism, street art, words in paintings

Try these artist studies



<p>Hokusai's wave</p> <p>Look at 'The Great Wave off Kanagawa'. Notice the curling claws of the wave, the tiny boats, Mount Fuji small in the distance. Children draw their own great wave with claws.</p>	<p>Van Gogh's swirls</p> <p>Look at 'The Starry Night'. Every brushstroke is a swirl or a curve. Children paint a sky using only swirling lines — no straight strokes allowed.</p>
<p>O'Keeffe's giants</p> <p>O'Keeffe painted flowers HUGE — filling the whole canvas. Children pick a small object (a leaf, a coin, a button) and draw it filling a whole A4 page.</p>	<p>Kahlo's self-portrait</p> <p>Kahlo painted herself surrounded by symbols of her life — animals, plants, things she loved. Children make a self-portrait surrounded by 5 symbols of their life.</p>

Why study famous artists?

Children gain confidence to make art when they see how OTHER people have done it. They learn that there are many right ways to make a picture. They build a visual vocabulary they can use forever. Plus — they discover artists who look like them, come from where they come from, or face challenges they face. Art belongs to everyone.

