

What makes a van Gogh?

Van Gogh's paintings are filled with bold color and vivid pattern

- 1. He placed complementary colors next to one another to increase their power*
- 2. He laid down thick layers of paint*
- 3. Van Gogh created shadows and reflections with a combination of colors, not just black*
- 4. His brushstrokes are vigorous and form strong patterns*
- 5. Van Gogh outlined his figures to make them stand out against the background*

Vincent Willem van Gogh was born on March 30, 1853 in the Dutch village of Groot-Zundart, near the Belgian border.

He took up painting at age 27, and died 10 years later on July 29th, 1890.

In only 10 years time Vincent van Gogh created 800 paintings and over 900 drawings. He was also an accomplished writer. Thanks to the preservation of 1000's of letters we have a nearly complete understanding of his feelings, experiences and views on every aspect to life. The letters are on display at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam.