

Van Gogh and His Inspirations: 6th-12th Grade

Museum Manners

Please review these guidelines with your students before your visit to the museum.

- Touching can permanently damage works of art. Please don't touch the art or lean on the walls in the galleries.
- Food, drinks, and gum are not permitted in the galleries.
- Be careful where you walk! Try to stay at least arms-length from any work of art.
- No pens, backpacks or large bags are allowed in the galleries. Bring only what you need!

Questions? Contact us at 803.343.2163 or email tours@columbiamuseum.org

columbiamuseum.org/learn



the Columbia Museum of **ART**

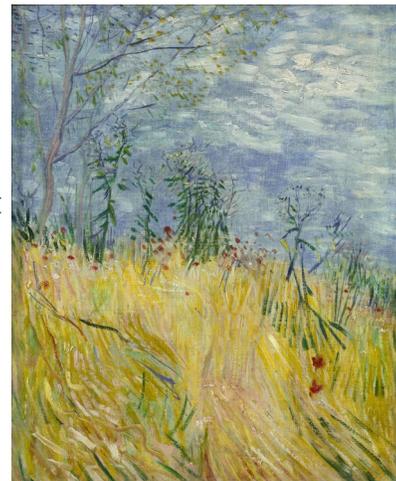
Resources

Want to explore more? Use these references to learn and share information with your students.

- Van Gogh's Life and Work. <https://www.vangoghmuseum.nl/en/vincent-van-gogh-life-and-work>
- Inspiration from Japan: Van Gogh Museum <https://www.vangoghmuseum.nl/en/stories/inspiration-from-japan#0>
- Vincent Van Gogh: The Letters. <http://vangoghletters.org/vg/letters.html>

Big Ideas & Major Themes

- Vincent van Gogh is famous now for the particular way he painted but a lot of factors contributed to his style, including artists who came before him.
- Van Gogh was fascinated by nature and felt that the natural world was wrapped up in religion as it was part of God's creation.
- Partly because of his deeply held religious beliefs, Van Gogh was sympathetic to the plight of the poor peasant class. Realist painters like Millet had a deep impact on his work and can be seen in his desire to convey the difficult lives that many impoverished working people faced.



Vincent Van Gogh. *Edge of Wheat Fields with Poppies*, 1887.

Please note For this tour you have the option of touring either just the exhibition or the exhibition and related pieces from the collection. Both tours will be approximately the same length. You may also choose to skip the studio session for a more in-depth tour program in the galleries.

Standards Addressed

VA 6-12 1.1, 1.2, 2.2, 3.1, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3

In the Classroom

Prepare students for your visit with one or more of these activities.

- Create a timeline of Van Gogh's life incorporating both milestones in his life and world events. Consider what was going on in the U.S. as well as other parts of the world. Have students measure out the timeline to scale.
- Van Gogh was inspired by Japanese woodblock prints he collected. Compare some Japanese ukiyo-e prints to Van Gogh's work (some were direct copies) and try recreating one in the style of a Japanese print.
- Try your hand at sketching outside. Using just a pencil - or whatever materials you have on hand - try to create a landscape based on what you can see outside. Notice what elements are the hardest to capture.
- Van Gogh was a prolific letter-writer. Read some of Van Gogh's letters and write some responding to him about his work or his life. Compose the letter in correct format and use your best handwriting.