

# Van Gogh-Starry Night

**Principle:** Abstract Art

**Concept:** Van Gogh suggested motion and direction in his paintings through the use of directional strokes of color.

**Objective:** Students will recreate Van Gogh's "Starry Night" using cut paper and paint.

**Supplies:**

- ✓ One 11x14 inch sheet blue construction paper per student
- ✓ Construction paper scraps cut from various colors of paper dark cool colors (black, purple, blue, gray) for houses
- ✓ small scraps of bright warm colors for the windows (yellow, orange, pink)
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Glue
- ✓ Tempera paints in orange, white, and yellow on a palette
- ✓ Blue tempera paint (put on their palette after they paint the stars)
- ✓ Tempera paint brushes
- ✓ Paint palettes
- ✓ Paper towels
- ✓ Water containers

**Pre-class Prep:** Make sure there are enough paper scraps cut out from construction paper in nighttime colors and small scraps of bright colors.

**Set-Up:**

- Distribute paper, scissors, glue, paper towels, paint and paint brushes for each student.
- Distribute paint to each student, except – small amounts! Pass out blue paint after they paint their stars with the yellow, orange & white.

**Prints:** 155, 156  
There are Van Gogh Calendar pictures in the yellow cabinet that you can use to either set up a "gallery" in the classroom ahead of the class and have the students walk around the "gallery" and stand next to the painting they like. Have the students discuss what it is they like or dislike about Van Gogh's paintings using descriptive words.

**Samples:** See Kindergarten Art Folder

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**Lesson:** **Demonstration:** Show the print and talk about the shapes in the sky and the way they represent motion. Show the children how to cut the paper scraps into the shape of little houses, churches, and buildings.

**Students:** Have students create the Starry Night village scene using shapes out of paper scraps. When they are ready, have them glue the shapes in a row along the lower edge of the dark background paper.

When they are completely finished gluing, have students paint stars in the night sky. For a Van Gogh style, they may paint dots of concentric circles around the stars, then add a second ring of dotted brush strokes around the first ring, moving out from the star into the sky. The stars will begin to look like their sparkles are spilling light into the night sky. Make as many rings around the stars and moon as desired until the painting has a feeling like one of Van Gogh's "Starry Night" paintings. After they paint the stars, pass out the blue paint and have them carefully fill the sky around the stars with blue. Show them how to dab and dot the brush in small strokes to create a look like Van Gogh's thickly painted painting. Have them title their art and write this on a label and stick to the back of the paper.

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### **Instructions for Instructors**

#### **Vocabulary:**

**Concentric** - circles within circles.

**Geometric Shapes-**

**Silhouette-** the dark shapes and outline of something against a lighter background.

- You may wish to continue the demonstration as the students work.

#### **On the Artist:**

- Vincent van Gogh became one of the world's most famous artists for his expressive style of painting. Born and raised in Holland, he spent most of his adult life in France. He was influenced by Impressionist artists, but developed his own style as a Post-Impressionist. His paintings use colors and thick brushstrokes to express moods and emotions. Van Gogh used bright colors applied with very visible brushstrokes in his paintings. He often created a pattern with the repetition of his brush marks and the quantity of paint. He often created an impasto (paint raised from the surface of the painting). The color plan for many of his paintings use complimentary colors (for example, red and green from the opposite sides of the color wheel). The use of complimentary colors often creates an intense visual vibration. Van Gogh stated he wanted to give the subjects of his portraits "something of the eternal which the halo used to symbolize". Van Gogh had a great love for people though he and his work were often rejected. He suffered from mental depression and possibly seizures.