



Sunflowers, Vincent van Gogh, 1888 or 1889.

Oil on canvas, 36 ³/₈ by 28 inches. The Mr. and Mrs. Carroll S. Tyson, Jr., Collection, 1963.
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. Photo Credit: The Philadelphia
Museum of Art/Art Resource, NY

Sunflowers

Art Print 7





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Sunflowers

About the Artist—Vincent van Gogh (1853–1890)

- Vincent van Gogh was born in the Netherlands. He had five brothers and sisters. His father was a preacher. As a child, he went to the village school and then later to a boarding school.
- Van Gogh was 27 years old when he decided to become an artist. In ten years, he finished more than 800 oil paintings. His colorful sunflower paintings are among his most famous artworks.
- At first, Van Gogh used dark colors and heavy brushstrokes. Later, he began to use bright colors and short brushstrokes.
- Van Gogh sold only one painting during his career. It was not until after his death that he became famous.

About the Artwork

As you discuss the artwork with children, ask questions such as the following:

- **What did Van Gogh show in this painting?** (11 sunflowers in a vase)
- **What colors did the artist use?** (yellows, oranges, reds, greens)
- **Artists can show the texture of things, or how they feel. The petals look soft and smooth. How do you think the vase feels?** (hard and smooth)
- **What other objects in the painting look hard?** (table, wall)
- **Look at the center of each flower. How do you think the seeds feel?** (bumpy)

Pass around real sunflowers, if possible. Discuss how sunflowers look and feel. Compare them to the ones in the painting.



Objectives

- Identify textures.
- Use art media and materials.
- Create artworks.
- Participate in dramatic play activities.
- Use materials in dramatic play situations.
- Participate in various musical activities.
- Move in time to beat and rhythm.

Vocabulary

texture *textura*
 bumpy *arrugado*
 smooth *liso*
 hard *duro*
 soft *suave*

Art Studio

Texture Rubbing



Materials

- objects with textures (flowers, leaves, bark, twigs, etc.)
- construction paper or butcher paper
- jumbo crayons, peeled

1. Invite children to examine the flowers, leaves, bark, twigs, or other objects with texture, and talk about how they feel and look.
2. Have each child choose an object and place it on a sheet of paper. Tape the corners of the paper to the work surface.
3. Model for children how to cover the object with paper, hold it down with one hand, and then rub over the covered object with a crayon to make a texture rubbing.

Dramatic Play

Arrange a Still Life



Materials

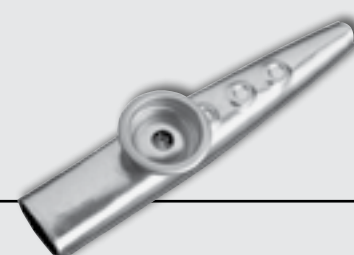
- bowls, baskets, bottles, vases
- dried flowers, branches, leaves
- paper
- crayons, paints, brushes

In *Sunflowers*, Van Gogh arranged the sunflowers in a vase and set it on a table. He used the arrangement as a model for painting a picture.

1. Children can take turns role-playing the artist Vincent van Gogh.
2. Have them arrange a still life using any of the materials.
3. Children can then draw or paint a picture of the still-life models.

Music

Sunflower Seed Shakers



Materials

- assorted cans with plastic lids
- yarn
- paint and paintbrushes
- sunflower seeds

1. Have each child use bright colors and yarn to decorate a can.
2. Put a handful of sunflower seeds in the dry can. Cover the can with the lid.
3. Tell children to shake their shakers and listen to the sounds made by the seeds.
4. Children can use the shakers to keep time as they sing their favorite songs.