

Project

Origins

ISABEL THOMAS
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GREAT ARTISTS



OXFORD

Supporting older children with reading

You can help your child to become a confident and enthusiastic reader by:

- finding a quiet time and place to read so they can read in comfort, without distractions.
- creating a regular reading slot, such as before going to sleep, so reading becomes a habit.
- talking about what they are reading and their reading likes and dislikes. This helps build their interest in what they are reading and develop personal choice in what they read.

Reading graphic texts with your child

Graphic texts are an incredibly powerful way of developing your child's reading comprehension skills. Make sure you allow your child to take time to fully understand what's happening; graphic texts offer a different reading experience, and they may take longer to comprehend than other types of books.

- Encourage your child to read at their own pace, allowing sufficient time to absorb details expressed through the illustrations: facial expressions, body language, viewpoints, angles, size and shape of frames and so on.
- You could still ask them to read a few pages to you. Be encouraging and positive: help them enjoy demonstrating their reading skills. As they read, encourage them to use expression in their voice to bring the text to life. This helps them become more fluent readers. If they do get stuck on a word encourage them to try to work it out. Check they understand the meaning of any new or difficult words.
- You could read a few pages to your child. This is particularly helpful if their interest seems to be flagging. Even older children still enjoy being read to. As well as increasing their interest and enjoyment, you are also showing that you too find reading something worth doing.

After reading this book

- Talk about what your child liked/disliked about the book. If your child wants to, you could consider helping them to:
 - research one or more of the artists and their works online or in a library,
 - choose two pieces by different artists and write a descriptive comparison,
 - create a piece of art in the style of one of the featured artists,
 - find out more about another important artistic movement that interests them.
- Encourage your child to answer the questions in the 'Check your understanding' section at the back of the book.



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GREAT ARTISTS

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A trip to the gallery

It was just a normal school trip ...

This is a **portrait** of Leonardo da Vinci, one of the world's greatest artists!



I could never be a great artist.

Of course you couldn't. Great artists are always old – and usually dead!



2

We weren't always old and dead, you know!



How did you get so good at art?

I bet you spent HOURS doing art at school.

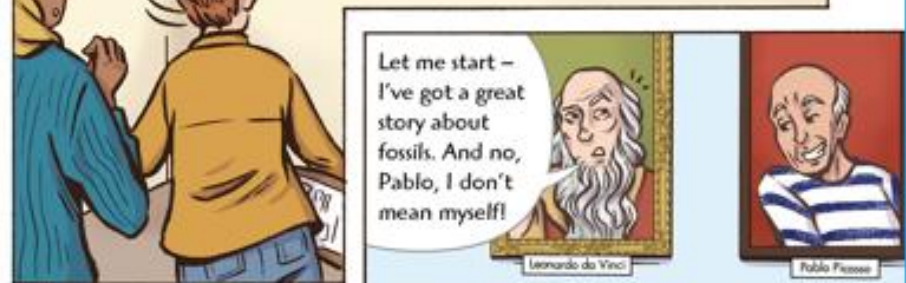


I loved school! Although that's not what made me a great artist.



Come and find out what we got up to when we were your age. Maybe you could become great artists, too!

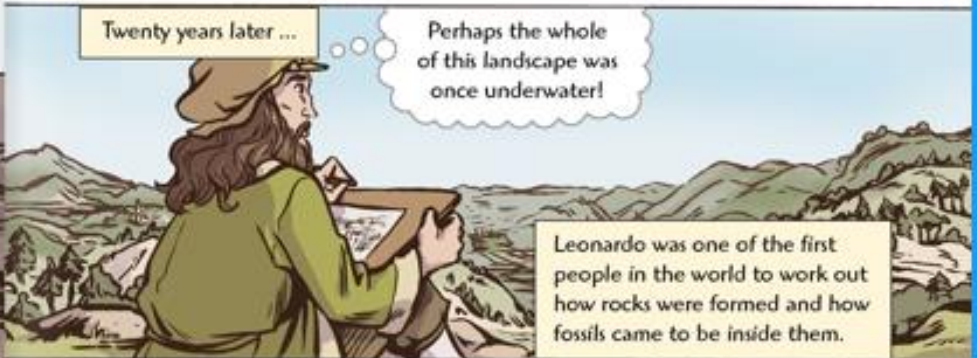
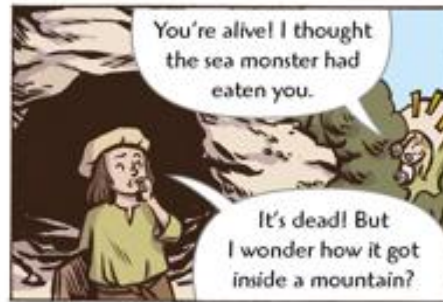
Let me start – I've got a great story about fossils. And no, Pablo, I don't mean myself!



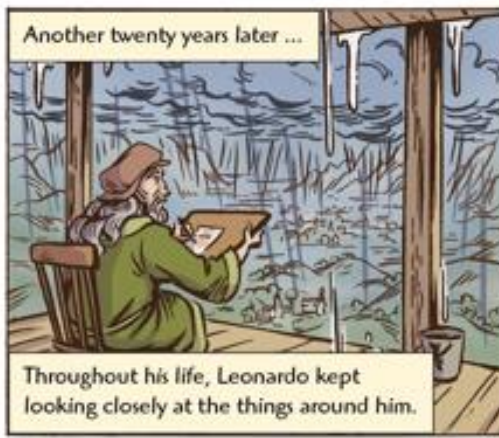
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Leonardo da Vinci





Leonardo was one of the first people in the world to work out how rocks were formed and how fossils came to be inside them.



Leonardo da Vinci facts

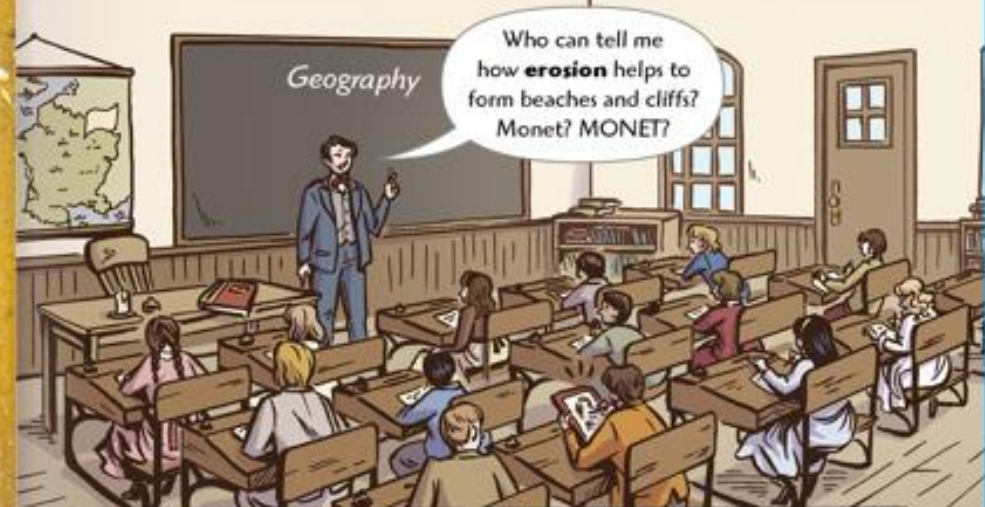
Leonardo da Vinci

Italian painter
15th April 1452–
2nd May 1519



- When he was a teenager, Leonardo went to live and work in Florence, Italy. He became a famous painter.
- Leonardo was inspired by nature. He also wanted to understand it. He taught himself about plants, animals, people and rocks by drawing them.
- Leonardo's **curiosity** also made him a great scientist, engineer and inventor. He never stopped having new ideas. He often started a new project before finishing the last one.
- Leonardo was a **perfectionist**. His most famous painting, the Mona Lisa, was never handed over to his customer because Leonardo never considered it finished!

Claude Monet





Wrong again, Monet! You haven't been listening. Show me what you HAVE been doing.

Uh oh.



SWOOSH



WHAT do you call this?



Hee! Hee! Hee!

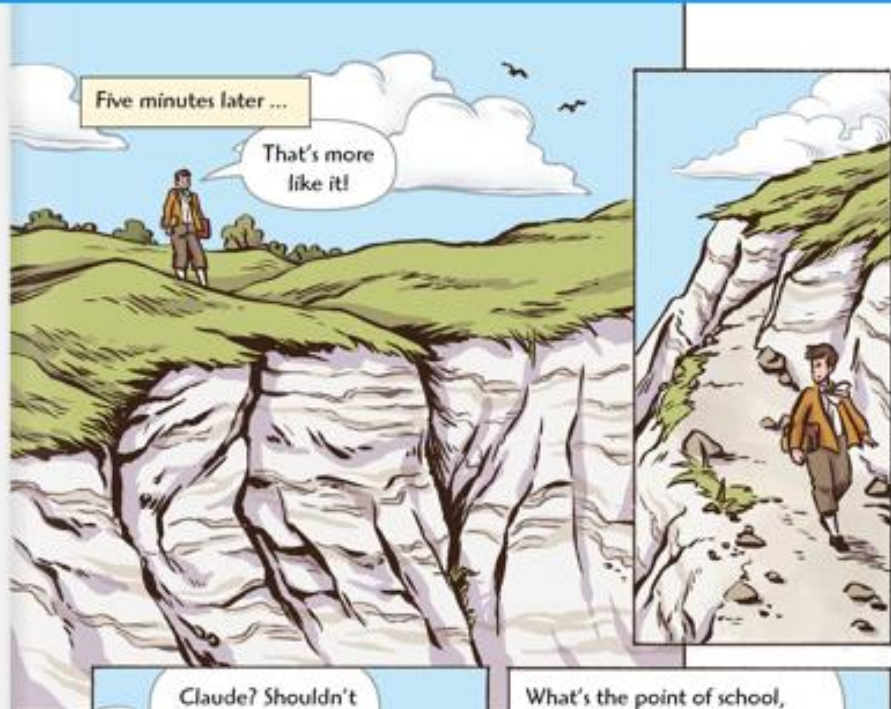


It's called a **caricature**, sirl

I'll buy it!



Don't come back until you're ready to learn!

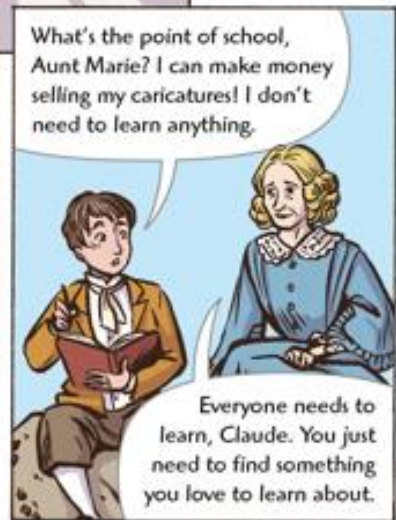


Five minutes later ...

That's more like it!



Claude? Shouldn't you be in school?



What's the point of school, Aunt Marie? I can make money selling my caricatures! I don't need to learn anything.

Everyone needs to learn, Claude. You just need to find something you love to learn about.

Claude's aunt sent him to meet a real artist. At first, Claude was not keen.



Ugh – not more boring lessons.



You must be Claude!

Come on, let's go!



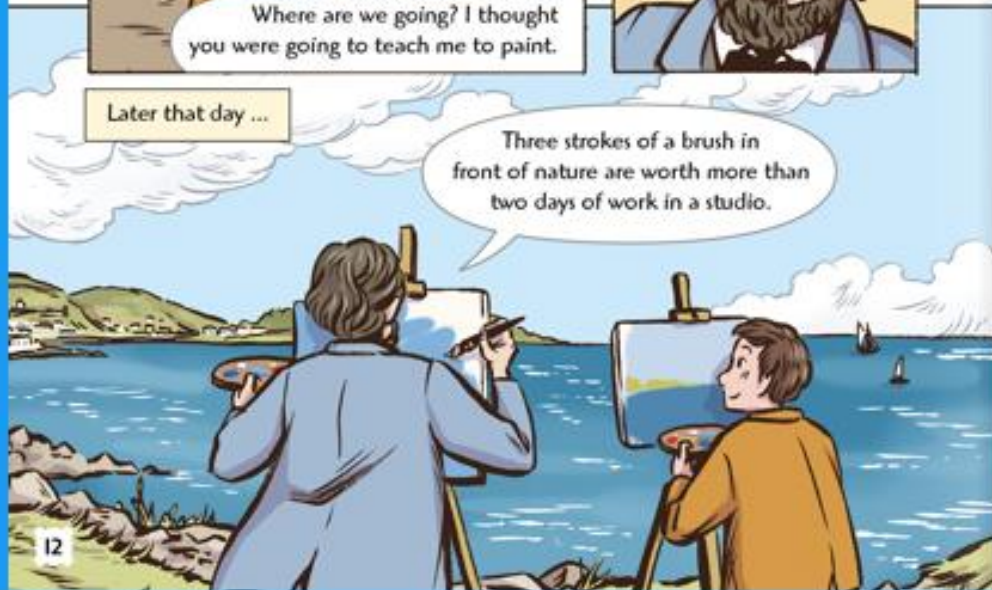
Where are we going? I thought you were going to teach me to paint.

There's nothing in the studio worth painting ...



Later that day ...

Three strokes of a brush in front of nature are worth more than two days of work in a studio.



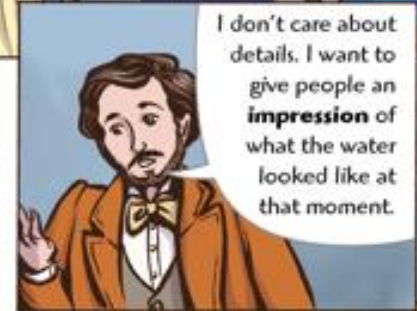
Seventeen years later, Claude was an expert at painting. However, not everyone liked his work ...



This painting doesn't look finished. I've seen wallpaper with more detail!



I don't care about details. I want to give people an **impression** of what the water looked like at that moment.



Well I love it – it's a whole new type of art!

You must have had brilliant teachers at school.



Well, they certainly inspired me to spend more time outdoors ...

Claude Monet facts

Claude Monet
French painter
14th November 1840–
5th December 1926



- Claude's teacher, Eugène Boudin, inspired him to paint outdoors for the rest of his life. This way of working helped Claude to develop a completely new way of painting.
- Instead of making a perfect copy of a scene, Claude tried to paint his 'impression' of a place or landscape. He painted the colours and shapes that he saw. This became known as **impressionism**.
- Claude became famous for painting the same scene over and over again. He wanted to find out how landscapes looked and felt at different times of day and in different weather and seasons.

Edvard Munch





Sadly, there were no treatment available for TB in the 1800s. Edvard's mother died when he was just five.

Don't worry, Edvard, Aunt Karen and I will look after you now.

Edvard's aunt encouraged him to paint and draw.

What a brilliant drawing, Edvard!

You're so talented!

Some years later, when Edvard was a teenager, tragedy struck again ...

COUGH
COUGH!
COUGH!



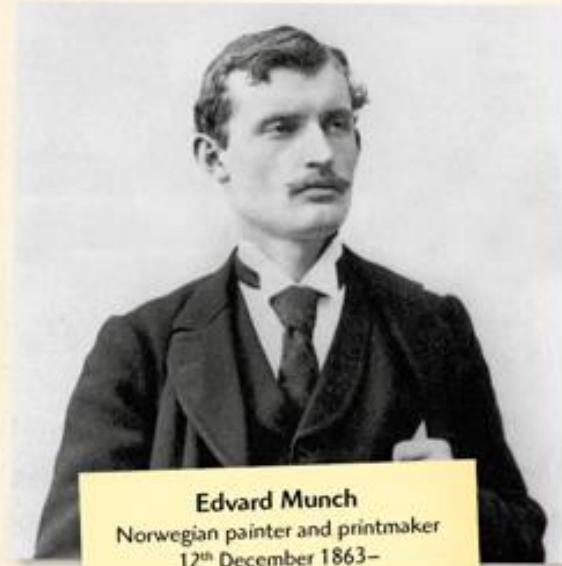
Edvard's sister, Sophie, also became very sick with TB.

My darling, Sophie, I wish we could help you.

Sophie died of her illness when Edvard was fourteen.



Edvard Munch facts



Edvard Munch
 Norwegian painter and printmaker
 12th December 1863 –
 23rd January 1944

- The sad things that happened to Edvard's family made him feel unhappy and worried all his life. He tried to express these feelings in his art.
- Edvard's portraits didn't show how people looked on the outside. They showed how people felt inside.
- His new style of art became known as **expressionism**.

Pablo Picasso

Did you know I was **dyslexic**? At school I found it hard to make sense of letters and words, but I loved to doodle ...



Pablo, why aren't you writing like the other children?



The letters don't make any sense to me.

I don't believe you – go and sit in the **calaboose**!



But Pablo didn't mind his punishment.

I like it here. At last, I can just sit and draw!



Luckily, Pablo's dad was an art teacher.

Don't worry, I'll teach you all about art!



Soon, Pablo was much better at art than his dad. He started to get bored.

I learned how to paint by copying great artists.

I don't want to copy someone else. I can already paint better than this!



By the time Pablo was twelve, his paintings were being shown in galleries!



Pablo's father got a job at the Barcelona School of Fine Arts.

I'd like my son, Pablo, to be in the advanced art class.



But that's for our top adult artists. Pablo is only thirteen!

He'll never pass the entrance exam – it took me a month!

That's what they think!

One week later ...

My son has finished the entrance exam!

Remarkable!

Amazing! He's welcome to join us.

Humpf!



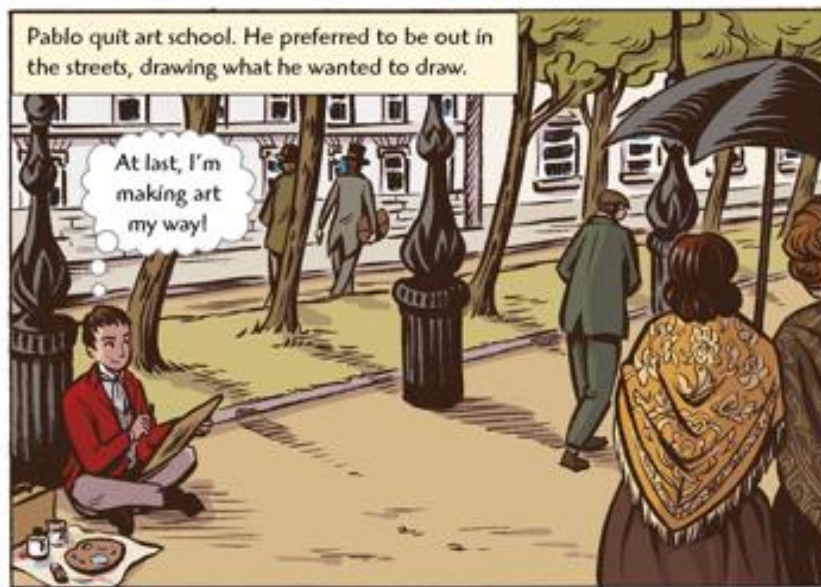
Three years later, Pablo got into Spain's top art school in Madrid, but he quickly got bored.

They just go on and on about the same old stuff. I hate painting the way everyone else does.

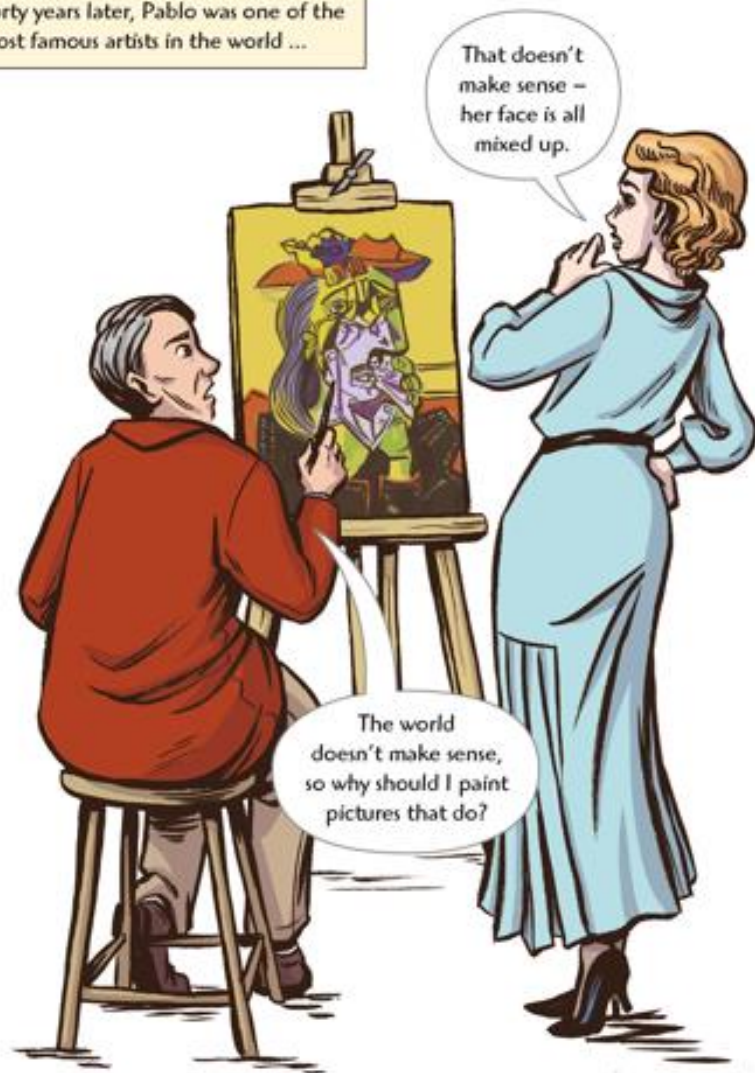


Pablo quit art school. He preferred to be out in the streets, drawing what he wanted to draw.

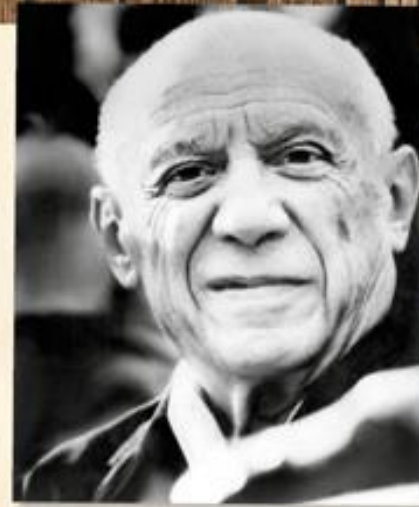
At last, I'm making art my way!



Forty years later, Pablo was one of the most famous artists in the world ...



Pablo Picasso facts

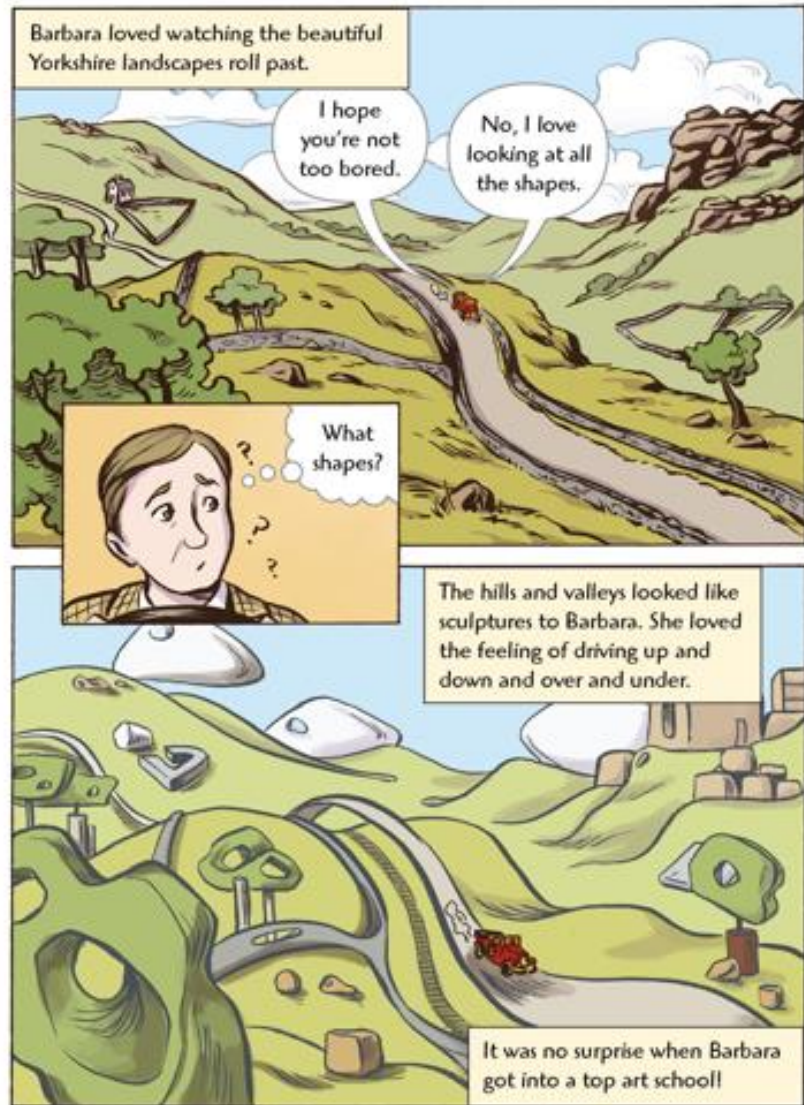


Pablo Picasso
Spanish artist
25th October 1881–
8th April 1973



- Pablo Picasso never tried to fit in. He didn't want to copy the old ways. He developed a whole new way of making art, called **cubism**.
- Cubist paintings don't follow the rules. They take objects and people apart and put them together in a different way, using shapes, colours and patterns.
- Pablo changed art forever. Other artists began to break all the rules and try new things.
- Pablo didn't stop there. He didn't want to copy himself, so he kept inventing new ways of making art all his life.

Barbara Hepworth





Barbara Hepworth facts



Barbara Hepworth
British sculptor
10th January 1903–
20th May 1975

- Barbara became one of the most famous sculptors in the world.
- She made sculptures out of wood, marble and bronze. They were based on the shapes, lines and **forms** she saw in landscapes and nature.
- Barbara didn't try to show landscapes and people as they really looked. She tried to show the way they made her feel.
- She wanted people to explore her sculptures, just like they would explore a landscape.

Back to the gallery



Glossary

calaboose	a type of small dungeon
caricature	a drawing that exaggerates someone's features
cubism	a way of painting that takes things apart and puts them together again in a new way
curiosity	wanting to know about something
dyslexic	someone who has difficulty in learning to read or interpret words, letters or other symbols
erosion	when something gradually wears away
exhibition	a display of something, for example, paintings
expressionism	a way of painting that showed how the artist feels inside
form	the shape and size of something
impression	the idea of something
impressionism	a way of painting that shows how an artist sees something instead of how it really looks
masterpiece	an artist's very best work
perfectionist	someone who likes everything to be perfect
portrait	a painting of a person
rural	the countryside
surveyor	someone who inspects land or buildings
tuberculosis	an illness that affects the lungs

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school	10, 13, 20, 26		

Check your understanding

- What is the purpose of the introductory and concluding sections in the gallery?
- What is different about each of the artists? And what do they have in common?
- What inspired each artist?
- What obstacles did they have to overcome?
- Who helped each artist?
- Do you have a favourite artist?
- Had you heard of any of the artists before you read this book? Has reading about them made you rethink your views on them or their work?
- What do you think makes an artist 'great'?

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GREAT ARTISTS

Take a trip to an art gallery, and find out about the real lives of the artists behind some of the world's most famous works of art.

GRAPHIC TEXTS

Titles at this level:

Chasing Birdy (Character fiction)

The Wind in the Willows (Classic)

The Pelican Chorus and other poems (Poetry)

> **Great Artists** (Non-fiction)

Australian Year Level 24-30

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