

Sunflowers by Vincent Van Gogh :60 Lesson Plan

- I. Talk about how we can recognize the onset of spring...transition discussion to flowers (5 min.)**
- II. Introduce Masterpiece of the Month: Sunflowers by Vincent Van Gogh. (5 min)**
 - a. See if anyone recognizes it from the walls of Lyon School.
- III. Read selected pages of book (10 min)**

Please note: Downplay Vincent's ear incident (perhaps refer to it as an accident). Also try not to mention his cause of death (suicide).

Optional to use a map to point out places of significance.
- IV. Talk about Vincent's fame and Don MacLean's song. (10 min)**
 - a. Slowly read lyrics aloud, stopping to point out specific points of interest.
 - b. Play CD - use ordered laminated color copies to provide visual representation of lyrics (like a slide show.)
- V. Art Project (15 min)**
 - a. Review key art concept of using warm colors to convey a mood.
 - b. Have students return to desks.
 - c. Distribute paper and drawing materials (markers or crayons)
 - d. Distribute one vase of sunflowers to each table.
 - e. Make observations, as a group
 - f. Start CD of "sad" background music to get them in a Vincent mood
 - g. Allow 10-15 minutes for students to render their own Sunflowers
 - h. Be sure to have students sign the bottom
- VI. As each student completes their work, call each child up individually to plant sunflower seeds. (15 min)**
 - a. MATERIALS NEEDED:

- i. Clear plastic cups
- ii. Potting soil
- iii. Sunflower seed
- iv. Popsicle sticks (to use as name tags)
- v. Sharpie permanent marker

VII. Wrap up exercise

- a. Who can tell me the name of the Master piece of the Month?
- b. Who can tell me the name of the artist?
- c. Who can tell me one nifty fact about the Masterpiece or the Master?

VIII. Put leave behind materials in mailboxes

- a. Letter home
- b. Sunflower coloring page