**Some interesting facts about the artist Vincent Van Gogh**

**Born March 30, 1853, Netherlands- died July 29, 1890**

* **1. Van Gogh’s name was not his own.**
* Vincent Van Gogh was named after his stillborn brother who he tragically would never get to grow up with.
* **2. He was a complex man.**
* He is widely thought to have suffered a complex range of mental illnesses which included schizophrenia and severe [depression](https://factcity.com/facts-about-depression/).

## **3. He came to the art game late.**

* Van Gogh never did a thing that could be considered artistic until he was 27! He was a failed art dealer, bookstore clerk, teacher, and even a pastor.
* **4. Art was his hobby.**
* Drawing was his salvation and he was fortunate to receive his first set of paints from his brother, Theo, at 28. This only happened because he was kicked out of the family home.

## **5. He led a lonely life.**

* After leaving home and moving to The Hague he frequently made friends with prostitutes as he searched in vain for companionship.
* His favorite was a [woman](https://factcity.com/facts-about-women/) called Siem who he drew and painted dozens of [time](https://factcity.com/facts-about-time/).
* **6. Van Gogh paintings likely looked very different back in his time.**
* The gentle browns used in a number of his paintings would have been beaming yellows but have faded due to the unstable pigments used at the time.
* **6. Van Gogh paintings likely looked very different back in his time.**
* The gentle browns used in a number of his paintings would have been beaming yellows but have faded due to the unstable pigments used at the time.
* **7. Rumor has it…**
* It is thought he was in a relationship with fellow painter Paul Gauguin.
* Gauguin is also rumored by some scholars to be the man responsible for cutting off Van Gogh’s ear.

## **8. The origins of some of his best-loved work come from dark places.**

* His most famous work, Starry Night, was painted whilst he was committed to an asylum following a severe mental breakdown.

## **9. He had a tragic end.**

* He shot himself in the stomach whilst painting in a field before walking a mile back to the inn he was staying at so he could lie down and die.
* **10. Many didn’t know of his genius while he was alive.**
* Van Gogh’s career only sprang into [life](https://factcity.com/facts-about-life/) after his untimely passing thanks to the energy and vigor with which his sister-in-law promoted his work.

## **11. He painted still life to save cash.**

* His lack of [money](https://factcity.com/facts-about-money/) is the main reason he tended to paint [sunflowers](https://factcity.com/facts-about-sunflowers/), self portraits and landscapes — he could rarely afford to pay a model.

## **12. Van Gogh was seriously prolific.**

* He painted more than 900 paintings in just 10 years — nearly 2 a week!

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  | |
|  | |