

Vincent Van Gogh
Starry Night and Cypress Trees

After listening to the video, do you think Van Gogh painted these two pieces early on in his career or later in his life? What makes you think that?

video link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qv8TANh8djI>

Right, he used many brighter colors, which he started using after he moved to France.

Let's take a closer look at Vincent Van Gogh's *Starry Night*.

What colors did Van Gogh use? Did he repeat colors?

If you think about music and the rhythm in music such as drums beating and repeating sounds giving the music rhythm. Van Gogh's use of repeating colors helps give his paintings a visual rhythm.

The swirls and circles make your eyes circle around the painting back and forth, giving the painting a sense of movement.

In this close up picture of his painting, you can see just how thick his brush strokes are as we worked to form those circles and swirls.

In fact, he didn't use just his paint brush, he also used his palette knife and other tools to help add color and create texture.

Let's take a closer look at what you see in this painting.

What shapes or objects do you see?

What do you think the "focal point" is in this picture?

What do you think he wants you to see first?

The cypress tree helps direct your eyes up to the sky and then the swirls of the stars and moon bring your eyes back down and around—building that sense of movement.

Reminds us of the title—Starry Night

How do you think Van Gogh felt when he created this painting? Do you think the starry sky made him happy?

What do you feel when you look at this painting? Is it peaceful, frightening, exciting?

Let's talk a little about perspective. What is perspective?

--depth, distance, what makes a painting look like you can walk into it

How has he created perspective?

- Images are overlapping
- Big is near, far is small
- Things high in the painting are far away

- Things lower are closer

Let's take a look at *Cypress Trees*.

What similarities do you see between these two paintings?

Which one do you like better and why?

As the video mentioned, Van Gogh was a very prolific painter. Does anyone know what that means?

He painted many pictures—hundreds and hundreds, but only sold one of his paintings during his lifetime. Today he is one of the most well-known painters of all time and his art sells for millions of dollars all over the world.