



INTRODUCING VINCENT VAN GOGH
Dutch 1853-1890 (GOE)
KINDERGARTEN LEVEL

- VISUAL AIDS:** Large Starry Night Print
- VOCABULARY:** Texture, Color, Spiral, Brushstrokes
- ART ELEMENT:** Texture

MOTIVATION (3 minutes)

Raise your hand if you have a good imagination. Great--I want you to imagine watching famous artist named Vincent Van Gogh. There was no electricity back then, for he lived over 12 years ago. That was a big problem for Vincent because he liked to paint at night. So Van Gogh invented a great way to have light while he painted. Picture this-Vincent took a large straw hat and put small candles on it! Do you think that worked well? (YES) But there was one big problem. Since he couldn't see the candles on top of his hat, it could easily catch on fire when the candle burned down. But that never happened because he was careful! Would you like to see a famous painting by Van Gogh that he painted while wearing his candle hat? One night Vincent looked out his window and saw a clear, star-filled sky. He quickly grabbed his candle hat, took out his paintbrush and paints, and this is what he painted.

DEVELOPMENT (4 minutes)

(DISPLAY LARGE PRINT) What word best describes this starry night -- peaceful or exploding? (EXPLODING) You are right! Look at how the stars seem to move. We can feel the energy and the power of those stars so far away in space. Van Gogh felt this power, and he painted what he felt with wildly, swirling brushstrokes. Let's all pick up our pretend paintbrushes (PANTOMIME) and paint swirls and spirals in the air like you see in the painting. Some lines swirl this way, others that way. Let's put down our brushes now.

Do you see many lines of color? (YES) Many lines of color give a painting texture. Let's investigate what the word means. Texture is how something feels. Touch your hair. Now touch your skin. Is the texture different from your hair? (YES) Now touch the rug or floor. Is that a different texture too? (YES) Give me a texture word to describe the rug or floor. (TAKE SEVERAL RESPONSES)

Van Gogh was such a good artist that we don't need to use our hands to feel the texture of this painting. We can see the texture of his brushstrokes and feel the swirls and power of the stars. The title of this famous painting is *Starry Night*. How many of you like it? It was a favorite of Van Gogh's also.

CONCLUSION (2 minutes)

Now that you know all about texture, you will have a chance to make a beautiful starry night picture, just like van Gogh! We will pretend we are painting at night with our candle hats, so let's put them on (PANTOMIME). It's very dark out so our paper will be black like the night. Our stars will swirl with colorful lines. What favorite colors will you use for your stars? Do you know what van Gogh's favorite color was? Here's a hint -- it's a bright and sunny color. (TAKE SEVERAL GUESSES) Yellow was his favorite color. How many of you share that favorite color? I think we're ready -- we have our hats, and your desks are ready with black night paper and beautiful pastel colors to give your sky texture.