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## Vincent Van Gogh Fact Sheet

Vincent Van Gogh (pronounced van-goh) was born on 30th March 1853 in Zundert in the Netherlands, the son of a reverend. After working as an art dealer, a teacher and a preacher, in 1880, at the age of 27, he decided to become an artist. Without any training or obvious artistic talent, Vincent and his parents, doubted he would be a success. However, his brother Theo believed in him and supported him financially while he taught himself to draw and paint.

Vincent was very poor and could not afford to pay models so he painted many self-portraits and landscapes. In 1888, Van Gogh moved to the south of France where he painted his famous series of sunflower paintings. He invited his friend and fellow artist Paul Gauguin to visit him there. One night they had an argument and Van Gogh threatened his friend with a razor. Deeply remorseful, he then cut off part of his own ear.







This was the first sign of the serious mental health problems that were to affect Vincent for the rest of his life. In spite of these problems, he worked very hard and produced approximately 900 paintings in just 10 years. Unfortunately, he only ever sold one and never became famous in his lifetime.

On 27th July 1890, aged just 37 and suffering from deep depression, Van Gogh shot himself and died two days later. After his death, his brother's wife collected Vincent's paintings and letters and dedicated herself to getting his work the recognition it deserved. She did an excellent job and he began to shoot to fame just eleven years after his death. He is now one of the most famous and popular painters who ever lived. His paintings are now on the walls of the best galleries all over the world and sell for hundreds of millions of dollars.

