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## Andy Warhol Fact Sheet

Andy Warhol, whose real name is Andrew Warhola, was born on 6th August 1928 and grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with his two older brothers and his parents, who had emigrated from Czechoslovakia. Andy was always artistic and loved to draw, colour and make collages. His mother encouraged him by giving him a chocolate bar for each page he finished in his colouring book.

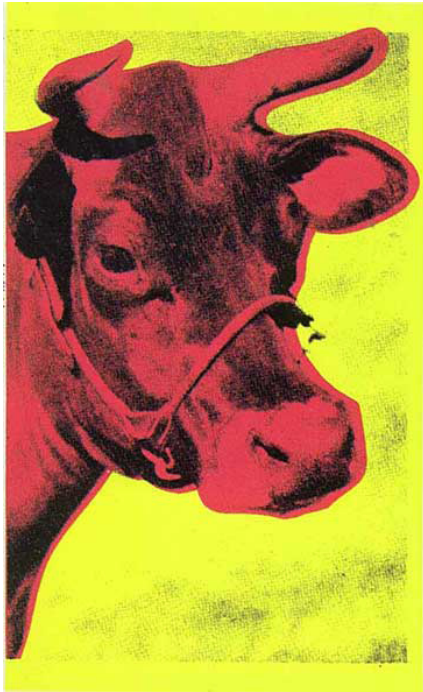
In grade three, Andy became sick with a disease called Chorea, which attacks the nervous system and makes you shake and twitch uncontrollably. As a result he had to spend a lot of time away from school and in bed. While bed-ridden, he drew, listened to the radio and collected pictures of movie stars around his bed. These later inspired his artworks.

After attending art school, Andy moved to New York and became a very successful commercial artist drawing pictures for ads, magazines and record covers.

In the 1960's Andy decided to become an artist and opened a studio he called The Factory. He pioneered a new art movement called Pop Art. Pop artists liked the idea of making art from everyday things like magazines, comic books, ads, packaging and the movies. For instance he painted 32 soup cans, one of each flavour, because they were his favourite lunch.







He was fascinated with celebrities and made many portraits of stars like Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley and Elizabeth Taylor. His Pop Art became so popular that he couldn't keep up with demand. So, he switched from painting to a process called silk-screening which meant he could quickly produce many different versions of his portraits.

Andy went on to make movies, publish a magazine, host his own TV show, write books and continue to make art until his death in 1987.

A great place to learn more about Andy is [http://qagoma.qld.gov.au/exhibitions/past/2007/andy\\_warhol/the\\_silver\\_factory\\_andy\\_warhol\\_for\\_kids](http://qagoma.qld.gov.au/exhibitions/past/2007/andy_warhol/the_silver_factory_andy_warhol_for_kids) There's a great game you can play to learn about Andy's life and an activity book that you can download.

