

A starry night with Van Gogh

A 12-page mini book and 4 colouring pages. Read the book together first, then colour in the painter's favourite subjects in your own colours.



How to make the mini book

- 1 Print pages 2, 3 and 4 (single-sided is fine).
- 2 Cut along the dashed lines to get 12 little pages.
- 3 Put them in order using the numbers in the corners.
- 4 Staple twice along the left edge, or punch holes and tie with string.
- 5 While you read, ask: which colour would you choose?

What's inside

- Pages 2–4: mini book (12 pages)
- Page 5: Sunflowers
- Page 6: Starry night
- Page 7: Vincent's bedroom
- Page 8: Almond blossom

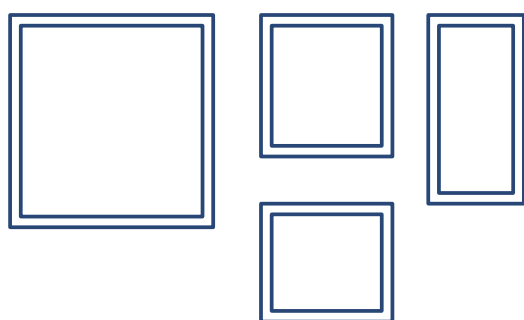
Tip: before you colour, look at Van Gogh's real paintings together. You can see them all for free on the Van Gogh Museum website.



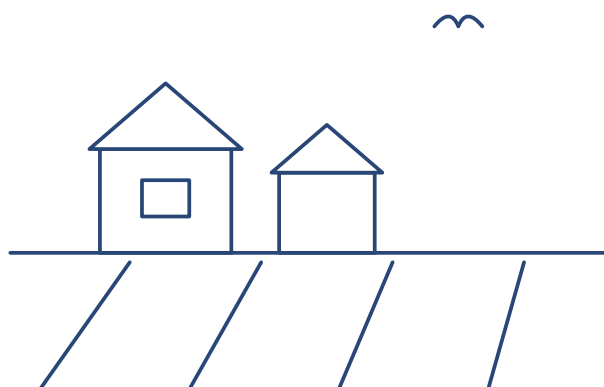
Vincent van Gogh

The painter who spoke in colour

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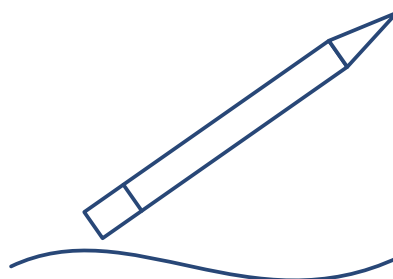


As a young man he worked at an art gallery. He looked at paintings all day, but he didn't paint yet himself.

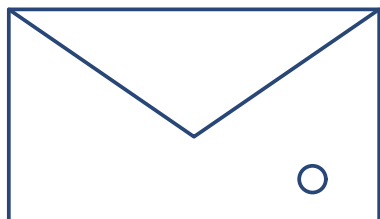


Vincent was born in 1853 in Zundert, a small village in the Netherlands. He loved wandering the fields and watching birds and beetles.

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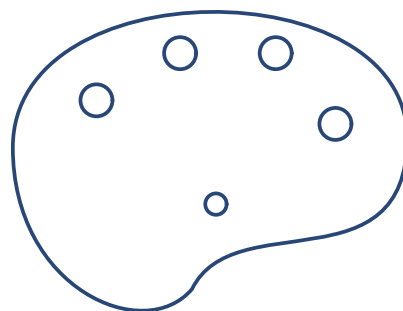


At 27 he made up his mind: he would be a painter! First he drew people working in the fields, in charcoal and pencil.



His brother Theo was his best friend. They wrote each other hundreds of letters, and Vincent often added little drawings.

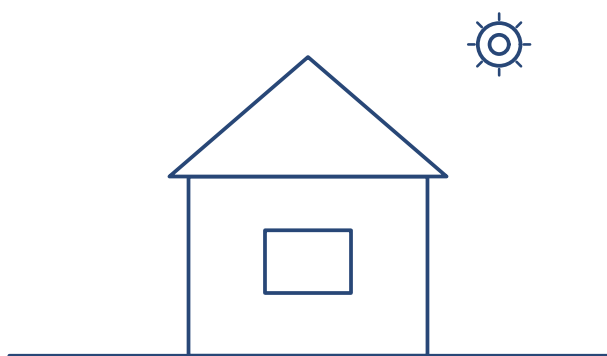
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In Paris he discovered colour. Dark browns made way for bright blues, yellows and greens.

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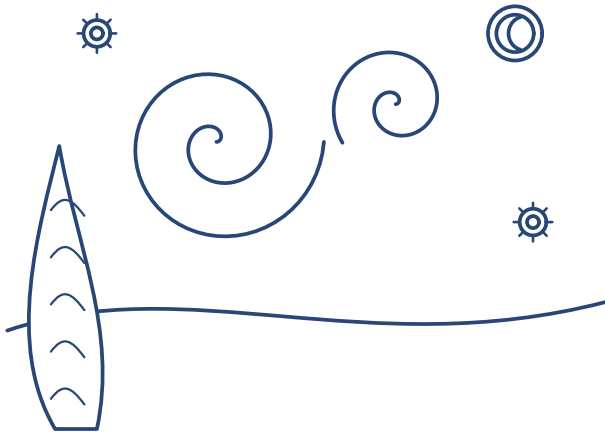
Then he moved to sunny Arles. He lived in a house painted yellow and called it "the Yellow House".

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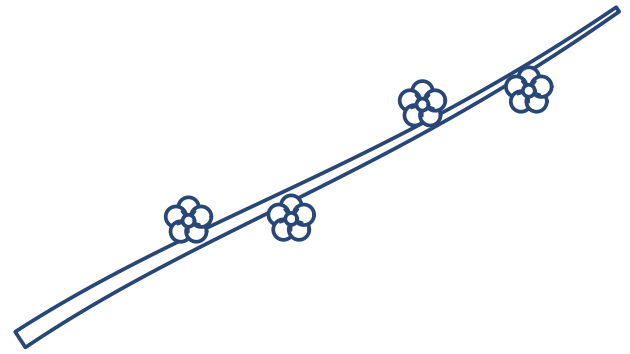
His favourite colour was yellow. He painted a vase full of sunflowers again and again.

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At night he looked at the sky from his window. In "The Starry Night" the sky swirls as if it were dancing.

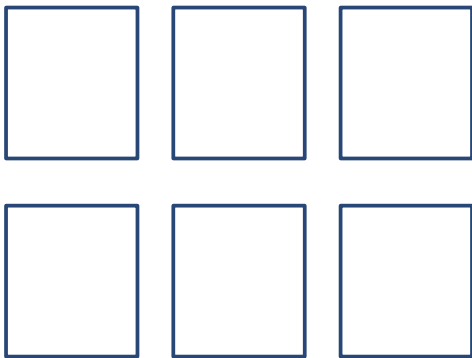
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When Theo's baby was born, Vincent painted him branches of almond blossom. The baby was called Vincent too.

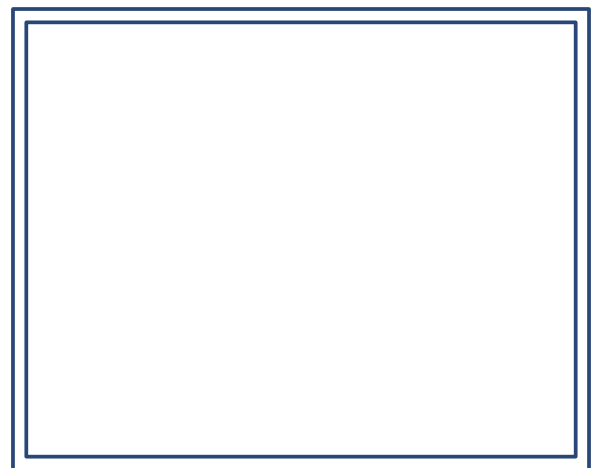
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In about ten years Vincent made more than 2,000 paintings and drawings. Back then, very few people liked them.

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Today people come from all over the world to see his paintings. Your turn: draw your own picture in this frame!

12

Sunflowers

Vincent painted his sunflowers in dozens of shades of yellow. Which colours will you choose?



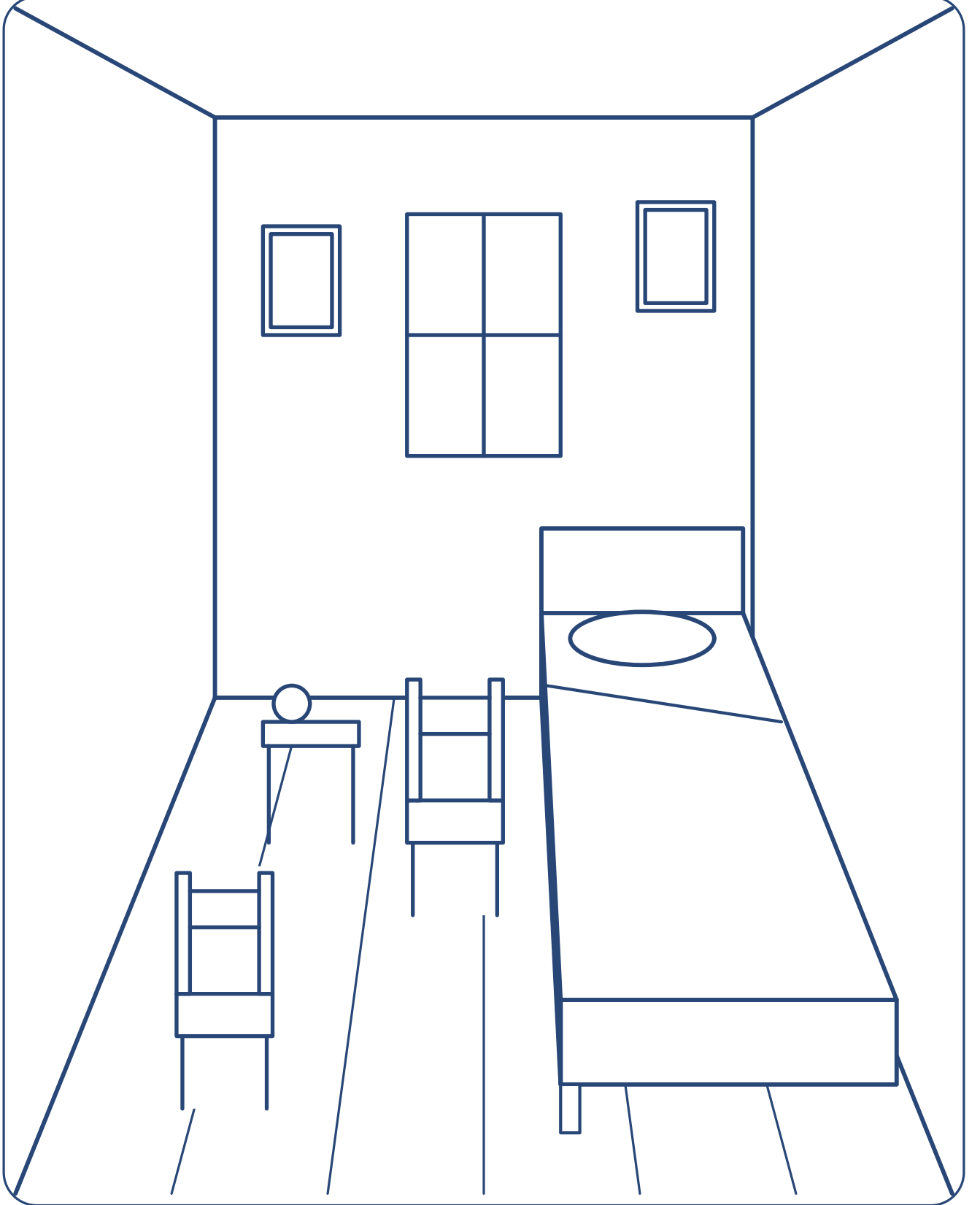
Starry night

Trace the swirls in the sky with your finger, then colour them in. Does night always have to be dark blue?



Vincent's bedroom

His bedroom in Arles: a bed, two chairs, paintings on the wall. What colour would you paint your room?



Almond blossom

He painted this for his baby nephew. Add as many flowers to the branches as you like.

