



## Knowledge Organiser for Year 6 Art Topic : Abstract Art

### Henri Matisse

**Full Name :** Henri Émile Benoît Matisse

**Nationality :** French

**Born :** 31 December 1869, Le Cateau-Cambrésis, France

**Died:** 3 November 1954, Nice, France

**Key Facts :**

- He was good friends with artist Pablo Picasso. They later became rivals.
- He ran a small art school called Academie Matisse in Paris between 1908 and 1911.
- Some of his paintings have sold for over \$20 million

**Important Works :** The Dancer; The Snail; *The Horse, the Rider and the Clown*



'The Dancer' created 1949

### Pablo Picasso

**Full Name :** Pablo Ruiz Picasso

**Nationality :**Spanish

**Born :** 25 October 1881, Málaga, Spain

**Died:** 8 April 1973, Mougins, France

**Key Facts :**

- He is the most important figure of 20th century, in terms of art, and art movements that occurred over this period, including cubism
- He produced about 147,800 pieces of art in his lifetime, the most expensive sold for \$106 million
- His first word was pencil and he started art lessons at 7 years old

**Important Works :** Figures at the Seaside; Still Life with Guitar, Woman with a Flower



'Still life with Mandolin and Guitar' created 1924

### Wassily Kandinsky

**Full Name :** Wassily Wassilyevich Kandinsky

**Nationality :** Russian

**Born :** 4 December 1866, Moscow, Russia

**Died:** 13 December 1944, Neuilly-sur-Seine, France

**Key Facts :**

- Kandinsky was known to be the pioneer of abstract art
- Kandinsky left his successful job as a law professor to become an artist
- Nazis confiscated 57 pieces of his Russian art
- His highest sold painting was for \$23.32 million

**Important Works :** Creation VIII; Yellow-Red-Blue; Several Circles



'Composition VIII' created 1923

**What is Abstract Art?** Abstract Art is art that does not attempt to represent an accurate depiction of a visual reality but instead use shapes, colours, forms and gestural marks to achieve its effect.

### Key Facts about The Abstract Art Movement

- The word abstract means to separate or withdraw something from something else.
- The term can be applied to art that is based on an object, figure or landscape, where forms have been simplified.
- Since the early 1900s, abstract art has formed a central part of modern art.
- The Abstract Art movement is called Abstract Expressionism because, although the art has no subject, it is still trying to convey some kind of emotion/expression.
- The Abstract Expressionism movement began in the 1940s in New York City after World War II.
- However, the first real Abstract Art was painted in the early 1900s by Kandinsky.

### What I should already know:

Foundation	Jackson Pollock painting
Year 3	Pablo Picasso drawing and painting

### Links to Future Learning:

KS3	Know about great artists and designers and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms. Produce creative work, exploring their ideas.
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