

Vincent van Gogh was born in 1853, in Zundert, Netherlands.

He had many jobs, such as working in an art gallery, as a teacher, in a bookstore and as a preacher.

Then, around 1880 he became a full time artist.

In 1885 Vincent went to Belgium and he discovered Japanese art which had bright colours - this influenced his style.

In 1886 he went to Paris and met other artists like Paul Gauguin and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. This is when he discovered impressionism and liked its use of colour and light and the technique (pointillism) where you use small dots.

In 1888 Vincent left the city and went to a French country town called Arles - he was happy for a while but later **he had mental problems and actually cut off part of his left ear!**

In 1889 he was treated at a mental institution and he started painting with small stripes instead of dots.

Sadly, in 1890, Vincent shot himself in the chest and died two days later. He was 37.