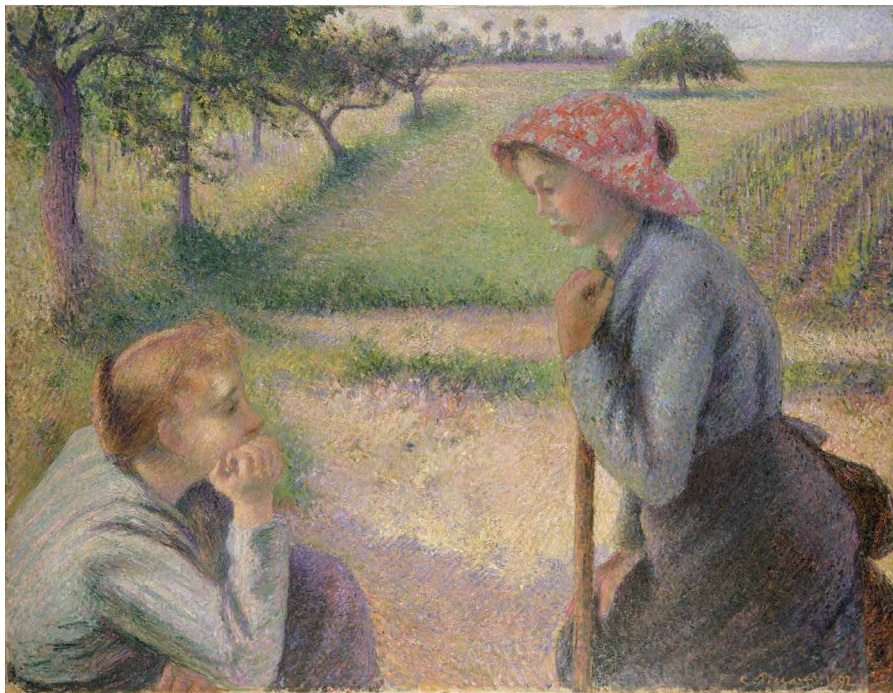




## The Centenary of Independence by Henri Rousseau

Painted in 1892, this depicts the celebration of the French independence of 1792. There are peasants dancing the farandole under a liberty tree. Serious and dignified republican leaders look on at the happy people of France.

The bright colors and solid figures are allegorical of the radiant and strong state of France under its good government.



## Two Young Peasant Women by Camille Pissaro

This was painted in 1891. The artist had a desire to "educate the people" by depicting scenes of people working on farms and in rural settings. He made an effort to be realist rather than idealistic. He wanted to depict people as they really were not in order to make allegorical statements or send political messages.





## Exotic Landscape by Henri Rousseau

This was painted in 1908 and is part of a series of jungle scenes by this artist. He purposely painted in a naive or primitive style. Though the painting looks simplistic the layers of paint are built up layer by meticulous layer to give the depth of color and vibrancy that the artist desired. He didn't even begin painting until he was in his forties, but by the age of 49 he was able to quit his regular job and paint full time. He was self taught.



## When Will You Marry? by Paul Gauguin

The artist moved to Tahiti from his native France, looking for a simpler life. He was disappointed to find Tahiti colonized and most of the traditional lifestyle gone. His most famous paintings are all of Tahitian scenes. This was painting in oil on canvas in 1892.

The woman in the foreground is wearing traditional Tahitian dress and the flower behind her ear indicates that she is seeking a husband. The woman behind her is wearing a western style dress in an incongruent pink color, sitting stiffly and with a look of disapproval on her face.





## Sunflowers by Vincent Van Gogh

Flowers were a favorite subject of this artist. He painted vases of sunflowers over and over again with different backgrounds, with different shades of yellows and blues and greens. He painted them mostly for his friend, Gauguin. There was never another time in his life when he was happier than while painting his bright sunflowers. This version was painted in August of 1889 in Amsterdam.

The artist used a technique called impasto. Very thick paint is laid onto the canvas in heavy layers so that the texture of the paint surface is very rough and comes off the surface of the canvas when dry.



## Starry Night by Vincent Van Gogh

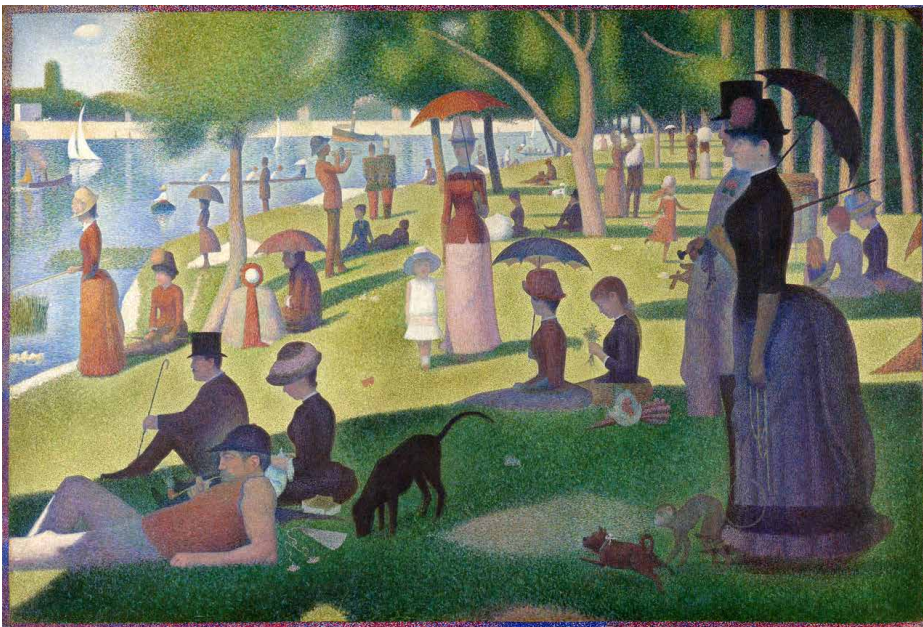
This was painted in June of 1889 from the artist's asylum room in a village in the south of France. It shows the actual scenery from his bedroom window with the addition of the idealized village in the foreground. The cypress trees on the left of the painting were really there as were the mountains in the center. The bright star just to the right of the cypress tree is Venus, which the artist had observed one morning just before dawn. He was struck with the beauty of the scene and painted it. The artist himself did not like this painting and thought it too abstract. It is one of the most recognizable and famous in the western world today.





## The Basket of Apples by Paul Cezanne

This was painted sometime between 1890 to 1894. The artist was known for his "ugly" still lifes. This one is especially noted for its off kilter items. The basket is tipped and the apples spill out, not in a lovely arrangement, but as though someone just clumsily knocked it over. The bottle is tilted. And the right hand side of the table does not match up with the left hand side. It is as though the scene is being viewed from two different angles at once.



## A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte by Georges Seurat

This was painted in 1884 in a pointillist style. The artist painted the whole scene using dots of color instead of strokes. Instead of color being mixed on the palette and applied to the canvas colors are placed together on the canvas and the eye sees the color intended. In this painting the green grass is formed by mixing various colored dots to get the overall impression of the green.





## Ambassadeurs: Aristide Bruant dans son cabaret

by Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec

This was painted in 1892. It is a poster of a French cabaret singer advertising his show. The singer and the artist were friends. This artist is famous for his posters, but also painted many scenes of the lower classes, who he hung out with in spite of his aristocratic birth.



## In the Time of Harmony. The Golden Age is not in the Past, it is in the Future

by Paul Signac

Painted in the pointillist style between 1893 and 1895, this was originally titled "In the Time of Anarchy" but had to be changed to avoid controversy in the salon. In the 1890s in France an anarchist movement had sprung up during the restoration of the Bourbons to the throne. It said that no one should govern another and so on. This painting was in support of that idea and so subversive to the government. The artist depicts a utopic scene of people enjoying life, picking fruit from trees that spontaneously produce, and falling in love without society to intervene.

# Post-Impressionist Art Cards

Post-Impressionism was more a time period than a single style of art. It lasted from about 1886 to 1905. The post-impressionist rejected the earlier impressionist naturalistic depiction of light and color in favor of symbolic colors and shapes, often departing from reality to lend greater emotionality to their paintings. This movement paved the way for later abstract art and artists like Picasso. These artists also often depicted very realistic scenes, even some of the ugliness of life, which had not been done before. They experimented with paint and techniques, using thick layers, tiny dots, or odd colors of paint.

Print these art cards and descriptions onto white card stock. Cut the cards out on the solid lines.

Help your kids become familiar with these paintings and artists by playing matching games, sorting the cards, and quizzing over them.

1. Place the cards face down, with images in one group and description cards in another group. Choose one card from each group. Determine if they match. You can read the description of the painting to see if they do.
2. Arrange the paintings in order of date. Which were painted first? Can you see a progression of techniques or style in the cards?
3. Hold up an image card and see if your child can remember the title of the painting. After these are mastered, use the image cards to memorize the titles and artists together. Finally master the titles, artists, and a little information about the painting.
4. Go online and find more art by the same artists. Can you tell which artist painted the piece just by looking at the style?