

## Space Week Art Lesson Plan for Year 6 (Age 10-11)



### Overview

This art lesson will introduce Year 6 students to the wonders of space through the lens of art. The lesson will focus on the works of Vincent van Gogh, particularly his famous painting "Starry Night," and will encourage students to create their own space-inspired artwork. The lesson aims to blend creativity with scientific curiosity about space, allowing students to explore both artistic techniques and the beauty of the cosmos.

### Lesson Objectives

- Understand and appreciate Vincent van Gogh's "Starry Night."
- Learn basic art techniques to create texture and movement in paintings.
- Create a space-themed artwork using various art materials.
- Develop an understanding of the aesthetic aspects of space, including stars, planets, and galaxies.

### Resources Needed

- Image of Vincent van Gogh's "Starry Night"
- Large sheets of black or dark blue construction paper
- Oil pastels or chalk pastels
- Paintbrushes and sponges
- Acrylic paints (white, yellow, blue, and other bright colours)
- Glitter and glue
- Star templates and planetary stencils
- Aprons or old shirts to protect clothing
- Space-themed music for background inspiration (optional)





## Lesson Plan

### Warm-Up Activity (10 minutes)

1. **Introduction to Vincent van Gogh:** Show the students a picture of "Starry Night" and discuss the painting. Highlight how van Gogh used swirling patterns to depict the night sky.
2. **Discussion:** Ask the students what they notice about the painting. What makes it different from a realistic night sky? Discuss the use of colour, texture, and movement.

### Main Activity (40 minutes)

1. **Sketching the Composition:**
  - Hand out the construction paper and pastels.
  - Instruct students to sketch a simple space scene on their paper, including elements like stars, planets, and galaxies. Encourage them to use swirling patterns and vibrant colours like van Gogh did.
2. **Adding Colour and Texture:**
  - Demonstrate how to use pastels to create texture and blend colours.
  - Allow students to fill in their sketches with pastels, emphasizing the use of bright colours and swirls.
3. **Painting and Detailing:**
  - Once the pastels are done, provide paintbrushes and acrylic paints.
  - Students can add white and yellow paint to highlight stars and other bright areas.
  - Use glitter and glue to add a sparkling effect to the stars and galaxies.



## Plenary (10 minutes)

1. **Gallery Walk:** Display all the students' artworks around the classroom.
2. **Reflection:** Have students walk around and observe each other's work. Encourage them to share what they like about each piece and what techniques they found most effective in their own work.
3. **Discussion:** Conclude with a discussion on how art can capture the beauty and mystery of space. Ask students how they felt while creating their artwork and what they learned about van Gogh's techniques.

## Top Tips for Teachers

- **Preparation:** Ensure all materials are ready before the lesson begins. Having star templates and planetary stencils cut out in advance will save time.
- **Protective Clothing:** Encourage students to wear aprons or old shirts to avoid getting paint on their clothes.
- **Encourage Creativity:** While it's good to provide guidance, allow students the freedom to explore their own artistic interpretations of space.
- **Use Music:** Playing space-themed music in the background can create an inspiring atmosphere and help spark creativity.
- **Positive Reinforcement:** Provide positive feedback and encouragement to boost students' confidence in their artistic abilities.



This lesson plan should help Year 6 students engage with art and space in a fun and educational way, allowing them to explore their creativity while learning about an important artist and the wonders of the universe.