

'Sunflowers' by Vincent Van Gogh

Background Information

This painting called 'Sunflowers' was painted by Van Gogh in the late 1880s in the Netherlands. He used oil paint on canvas to create it. It measures 71cm in width and 92cm in height. This is one of the sunflower paintings Van Gogh created as part of a series. He painted this one for his friend Paul Gauguin who was coming to visit him. Nowadays, they are some of his most famous works but when he was alive they were never sold.

Take a look at the following labels. Link them to the correct part of the painting using the clues given. Draw a line from each one to the relevant part of the painting.

The artist used a definite outline to make the shape of the vase.

There are ridges of paint left behind by the brush Van Gogh used.

Van Gogh signed his name on the vase.



The artist used a pale grey-blue background to offset the vivid yellow flowers in the vase.

Some flowers are starting to wither and are drooping over.

Van Gogh used a method called impasto. This is where he applied thick layers of paint which left many bumps on the painting's surface.

Questions

1. Why did the artist choose sunflowers to paint, do you think?

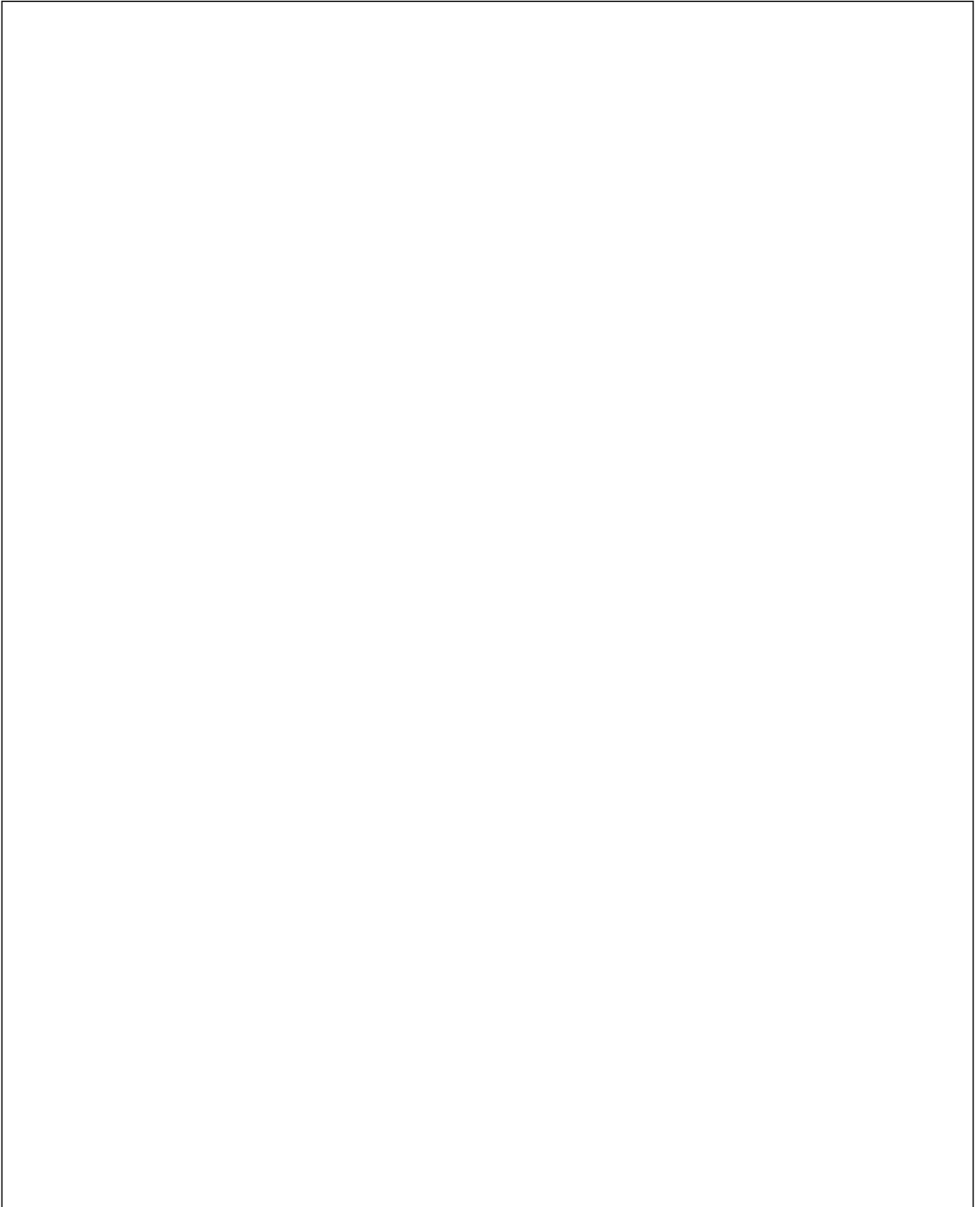
2. What mood do the bright yellow sunflowers give the painting? Give reasons for your answer.

3. When you think of sunflowers what images and adjectives pop into your head? List ten of them below.



Sketch

Now draw your own sketch of the painting using your memory only.



Extra Challenge

Use the Internet or your dictionary to find the main meaning for the following art term:

impasto:

Use the Internet to research three facts about the artist - Vincent Van Gogh.

1.

2.

3.

