

Man with a Straw Hat and an Ice-cream by Pablo Picasso

Print Facts

- Medium: Oil on canvas
- Date: 1938
- Size: 61 x 46 cm
- Location: Musee National Picasso, Paris, France
- Period: Neoclassicist and Surrealist Period
- Style: Surrealism
- Genre: Portrait
- Picasso painted this painting to keep for himself. He did not intend to sell it.

Artist Facts

- Born: October 25, 1881 in Malaga, Spain
- Died: April 8, 1973 in Mougins, France
- Picasso was baptized Pablo Diego José Francisco de Paula Juan Nepomuceno María de los Remedios Crispiniano de la Santísima Trinidad, a series of names honoring various saints and relatives. Added to these were Ruiz and Picasso, for his father and mother, respectively, as per Spanish law. (Wikipedia)
- Picasso's father was an artist and mostly painted birds and other game. He was a professor of art at the School of Fine Arts in Barcelona.
- From the age of seven, Picasso received formal artistic training from his father in figure drawing and oil painting. Picasso demonstrated artistic talent early on and originally painted in a realistic manner.
- Ruiz persuaded the officials at the academy to allow his son to take an entrance exam for the advanced class. This process often took students a month, but Picasso completed it in a week, and the impressed jury admitted him, at just 13. The student lacked discipline but made friendships that would affect him in later life. His father rented him a small room close to home so he could work alone, yet he checked up on him numerous times a day, judging his drawings.
- In 1900 Picasso moved to Paris, France, which was considered the art capitol of the world. He was friends with many famous artists.
- Picasso made a few appearances in movies, always playing himself.
- He had four children.
- During World War II the Nazis, who occupied France at the time, did not approve of Picasso's style, so he was not able to exhibit his paintings and turned to poetry as an artistic outlet.
- With Georges Braque he developed the style known as cubism. This style involves taking objects apart and analyzing them as shapes. This style was the precursor to the art of collage.
- It is estimated that Picasso completed 50,000 works of art during his career.
- Picasso remains the top ranked artist for sale of paintings at auctions. A painting of his sold for 106.5 million dollars in 2010.
- He's one of the most renowned artists of the 20th century and earned an immense fortune through his art.
- Picasso left no will, so much of his artwork at the time of his death was turned over to the French government and are now on display at the Musee Picasso in Paris, France.

Key Element of Design to Teach

- **Color** is a reflection of light. Color may be described in many ways. Primary colors are red, yellow and blue. Secondary colors are orange, green and violet. Tertiary colors are red-violet, blue-violet, blue-green,

yellow-green, yellow-orange, and red-orange. Color can be described as being warm (in the red-yellow range) or cool (in the blue-green range). There are also various color schemes that the artist may use to emphasize certain parts of their work.

Possible Questions and Suggestions to Teach Color

- Use the color wheel to remind or teach students about color.
- Do you see analogous colors in this painting? Where?
- Do you see complementary colors in this painting? Where?
- Would you say this painting is cool or warm? Why?
- Do you see any warm colors in the painting? Where?
- What is the predominant color in this painting? Why do you think Picasso chose that color? (Consider what the man is doing-could blue allude to the cold temperature of ice cream?)
- Where does the artist use no color? (Negative or black space)
- Why do you think the artist chose to use a black background for this painting? Where else do you see black? Does that add to the two-dimensional feel of this painting?
- What colors seem "off" to you in this painting? (Notice the green tongue, yellow teeth and eyes).

Keywords

- Primary colors, analogous colors, complimentary colors, line, texture, shape

Other Possible Questions

- Have the children try to repeat to you Picasso's full name. A print out is in the packet.
- Have the children guess what the man is eating or doing before you tell them the name of the painting. This would be a fun painting to have them guess the title.
- After they identify the ice cream cone, have the students pose how they eat ice cream cones.
- Is this a man or woman? How can you tell? (Notice the beard).
- What direction are this man's eyes looking? Why do you think Picasso has his eyes looking different directions? Can your eyes do that?
- Do you straight or curvy lines in this painting? Where?
- Do you see diagonal lines? Where?
- Where do you see long lines in the painting? Where do you see short lines?
- Show the students how the swirly lines in the hat take you around the hat from one side to the other.
- Picasso took apart objects, such as a face, and turned each element into a shape. What shapes do you see? Where do you see circles, diamonds, or triangles? What basic shapes would you say are on each of your faces? (Circle for eyes, triangle for nose, etc.)
- Take in a piece of paper and a shoebox. They are both rectangles but one is two-dimensional (shape) and one is three-dimensional (form). Does this painting seem two or three-dimensional?
- Can you find the man's tongue? What about his ear? Nose? Fingernails?
- Notice the hand. Does it seem contorted? Try to put your fingers in this position.
- What seems too large on his face? (His nose, mouth)
- What's on the man's head? What clues do you see? Does the artist use texture to identify the straw hat?
- Do you see texture in the man's beard or hair?
- What is the texture of the hat? How does the artist use lines to help you understand the texture?
- What do you think the green diamond is on the man's face?
- Do you see contrast in this painting? Where?
- What do you think this man is wearing?