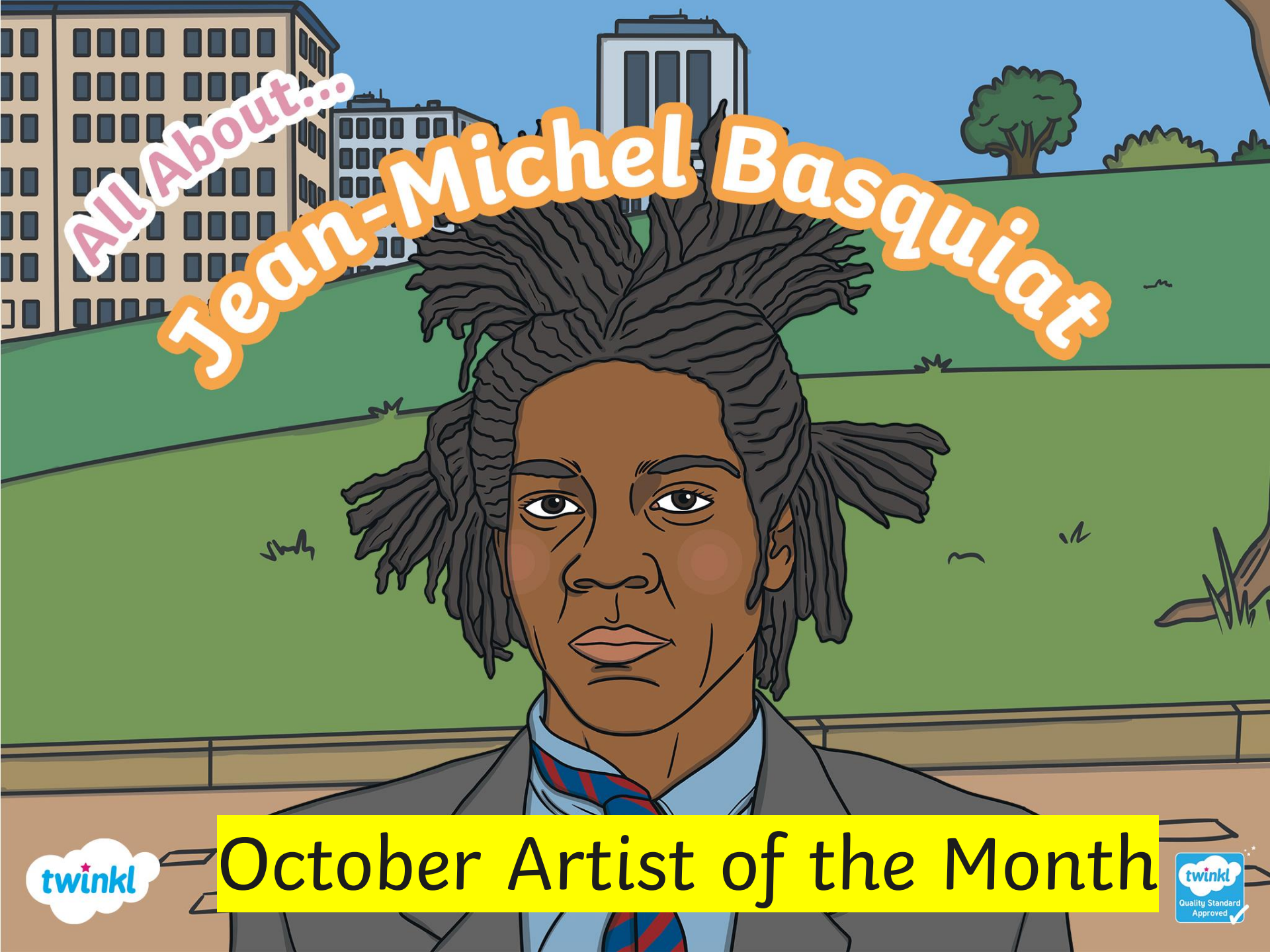


A cartoon illustration of Jean-Michel Basquiat. He is a Black man with a serious expression, wearing a grey suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a red and blue striped tie. He has his signature wild, spiky black dreadlocks. The background is a stylized cityscape with a green lawn in the foreground, a sidewalk, and several buildings under a clear blue sky. There are some trees and bushes in the distance.

All About...

Jean-Michel Basquiat

October Artist of the Month

Little People, BIG DREAMS

JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT



Written by Maria Isabel Sánchez Vegara

Illustrated by Luciano Lomero

Jean-Michel Basquiat

Jean-Michel Basquiat was an important artist from the USA. He was born on 22nd December 1960.

Jean-Michel had two younger sisters called Lisane and Jeanine. Their parents split up when the children were young and they mainly lived with their dad because their mum was sometimes unwell.



Did You Know...?

Jean-Michel's dad was from a place called Haiti. Many people in Haiti speak French and Jean-Michel's name is French. You say it like this: Jon Mee-shell Bas-kee-ah.



Discovering Art

From a young age, Jean-Michel enjoyed art. He and his mum would go to art galleries in New York. Jean-Michel created his own drawings of his favourite cartoon characters. When he was seven years old, Jean-Michel and his friend (Marc) created their own children's book.

In 1967, Jean-Michel was knocked over by a car. He had to have an operation and spent a long time in hospital. To help pass the time, Jean-Michel's mum gave him a book used by doctors to learn more about the human body. Jean-Michel copied lots of the pictures from the book.



What Is Graffiti?

Graffiti is a type of art that is drawn or painted on buildings, bridges and other outdoor places. Sometimes the graffiti artist adds their name to the piece of art. This is called a tag.



SAMO

When Jean-Michel was 17 years old, he and his friend Al started creating graffiti on buildings around New York. They invented the nickname SAMO and used this as a tag on their art.

Jean-Michel and Al created graffiti about things that were happening in the world. People began to notice the art springing up around the city.

In 1980, Jean-Michel and Al had an argument and stopped being friends. After they fell out, no more SAMO art was created.

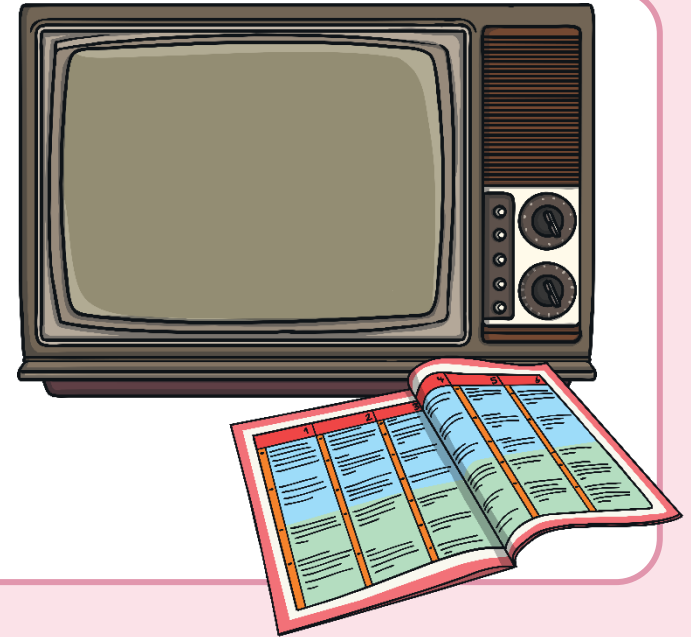


Did You Know...?

SAMO is pronounced 'same-oh'.

Fame

Jean-Michel started to become well known. He appeared on television shows and his art was featured in several magazines. Jean-Michel started painting on objects he found in the street, including old doors. He also created paintings on canvas, which is material stretched over a frame. Jean-Michel's art was shown at art exhibitions.



In 1981, a famous singer called Debbie Harry bought one of Jean-Michel's paintings. This was the first time he had sold a painting.

Crowns

Crowns featured in many of Jean-Michel's paintings.



"Jean-Michel Basquiat - Fondation Vuitton, Paris" by [Fred Romero] is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#)

Different Places

Jean-Michel created paintings for the walls of a famous nightclub in New York. He designed the front cover for music records and his designs were put on shoes and clothing. Jean-Michel also created art to raise money for charities.

Jean-Michel often painted while wearing very expensive suits. He would then wear the paint-splattered suits to parties.

Sadly, Jean-Michel died in 1988 when he was 27 years old.



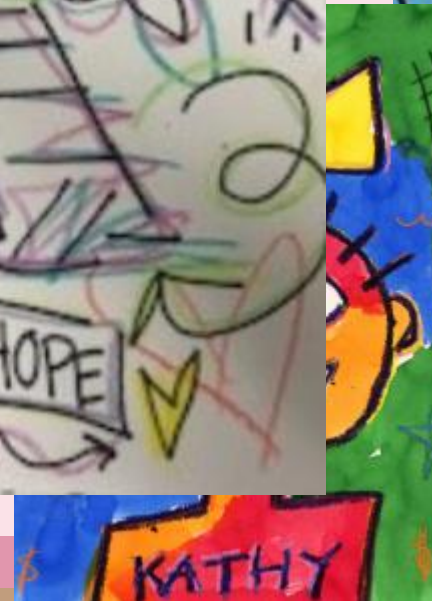
Try It

Can you create a graffiti type drawing with bright colours and sometimes

Why don't you create your own figure and put a crown on

You could create your own drawing with chalk and drawing on the ground

Chalk soon wears away but you can take a photo of your art and bring it home



Try It



You could design a crown and colour it in like graffiti.

