

September Artist of the Month

All About Hokusai



Hokusai

Katsushika Hokusai was a famous Japanese artist.

He was born in October 1760 in a city called Edo (which is now known as Tokyo).

During the seventy years that he created art, he made over 35,000 paintings.

He changed his name over thirty different times throughout his life. However, he was most well known as Hokusai.



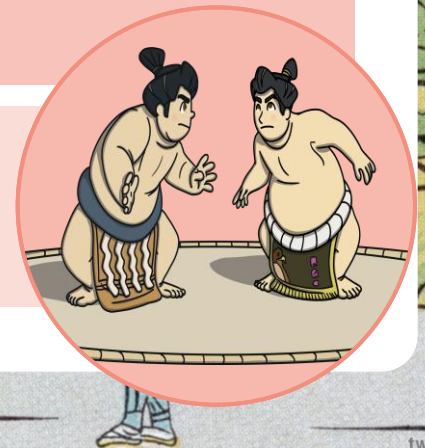
Early Life

Hokusai began to develop a love of painting when he was six years old.

When Hokusai was 15, he worked as a woodcutter. His job was to create wooden blocks, which were used to print the designs of local artists. Paint would be rolled onto the blocks and then they would be pressed onto paper to make the art.

However, three years later, he decided that he wanted to focus on creating his own art instead of the art of others. It was at this point he started to train with another Japanese artist, Katsukawa Shunshō. During this time, he created a lot of paintings of actors and **sumo wrestlers**.

Sumo wrestlers - Sumo wrestlers compete in a Japanese sport called sumo wrestling, where they must use their own strength to force the other wrestler outside of a drawn circle.



Ukiyo-e

Ukiyo-e was a type of Japanese art that was very popular between the 1600s-1800s.

Ukiyo-e roughly means 'pictures of the floating world' in Japanese.



36 Views of Mount Fuji

When Hokusai was one of the most famous artists in Japan, which he called 'The Great Teacher of Mount Fuji', some of his works showed the mountain hidden in the background.

Mount Fuji is a famous Japanese volcano.



One of his most famous works is 'The Great Teacher of Mount Fuji', which shows the mountain hidden in the background.

Mount Fuji is a famous Japanese volcano.

This painting is called 'Rainstorm beneath the Summit'

Thirty-Six Views of Mount Fuji



'Lake Suwa in Shinano Province'

Thirty-Six Views of Mount Fuji



'Climbing on Mt. Fuji'

Kajikazawa in Kai Province

Kajikazawa in Kai Province is one of Hokusai's designs from the 36 Views of Mount Fuji.

This artwork was one of the first Japanese prints to use this shade of blue, known as 'Prussian Blue'. The colour and the use of repeated patterns and shapes made this painting very popular.



What repeated patterns or shapes can you find in this painting?

Legacy



He was also a great influence on many famous artists including Vincent Van Gogh.

most celebrated
any art g



artwork

What is the same about these paintings? What is different?

Try it! Your Arty Task



The Great Wave

Can you make your own 'Great Wave'.



Try it! Your Arty Task

Create your own print.

You could try rolling paint onto a leaf and pressing it onto a sheet of paper to make a lovely print of your own.



