



Year 2 Knowledge Organiser - Portraits



Vocabulary

Key Questions

Key Artist

Rembrandt van Rijn 1606—1669

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Smudged	Smearing something by rubbing.
Modern	In the present or recent times.
2D portrait	2 dimensional—flat and dull with no depth.
3D portrait	3 dimensional— adds an extra dimension, volume
Classical	Something that has long been considered great.
Cubism	A way of painting and drawing where artists show more than one view of something in the same picture, like looking at many sides of a cube at once.
Chiaroscuro	The use and contrast of strong areas of light and darkness in a painting, to give a 3-dimensional effect.

Why are portraits important?
 Before the invention of photography, a painted, sculpted or drawn portrait was the only way to record the appearance of someone. Portraits have also been used to show the power, importance, virtue, beauty and wealth of the person.

What are shades, tints and tones?
 A tint is a mixture of a colour with white, which reduced darkness. A shade is when a colour with mixed with black to increase darkness. A tone is produced by mixing a colour with grey, or by both tinting and shading.

How and why is light and dark used?
 Light and dark are used to create the illusion of 3D volume on a flat surface. The term **chiaroscuro** translates to light and dark.
 Chiaro = bright or clear Scuro = dark or obscure



Key Information

Rembrandt is one of the most famous and researched visual artists in history. A Dutch artist who produced many paintings, drawings and etchings of various subject matter, but is most well known for the realistic portraits of himself and others. He completed at least 40 self portraits during his lifetime.

Description of Work
 Among the more prominent characteristics of Rembrandt's work is his use of 'chiaroscuro', which is the technique of using light and dark to create realistic images. The use of dark featureless backgrounds make the viewer concentrate on the highlighted and detailed expressions of the faces.

Work Examples



Timeline of Artists

