

Franz Marc was born in February of 1880 – that was _____ years ago. He lived in Munich (capital of Bavaria).

His father was Wilhelm Marc. He worked as a professional landscape painter.

What is a landscape? For adults, “landscape” means views of the country: cityscapes, ocean vistas or even grand, cloud-filled skies. Children think of a landscape more often as a place where something can happen: camping, fishing, fun in the snow, and so forth. To help young children clarify the idea of “landscape,” you could show another print of a landscape. Help them realize that landscapes show mostly hills, trees, sky and other natural or man-made features. Landscape paintings are pictures of places.

Franz Marc mother was very strict – she had many rules. Because of this Franz was very serious.

He enrolled in University and decided to study different languages. But at the age of 20 he decided to do what his father did. He decided to become a painter. He enrolled at the Munich Art Academy. After his first stage of training was completed he went to a place where many artists at that time went to study and meet other artist – he went to Paris, France.

He was thrilled because he discovered a group of painters called the Impressionists. They painted but showed emotion and movement and it was a very different type of art that when he looked at – it made him happy. He returned back to Munich but became very sad. He worked all the time. He was engaged to be married and ran away to Paris the day before the wedding.

Back in Paris – he was happy because he did what he loved – painted. He loved to paint animals. But he did not necessarily paint a dog or cat like we were used to seeing them. He would paint it a different color or exaggerate the body. This style was called Expressionism (distorts reality for an emotional effect). He also loved color and thought it meant something. (i.e. Blue=Boy, Yellow=Girl, Red=Mean and aggressive color)

He met a collector of paintings that liked him so much that he paid him to create art for him. He would then have exhibits of the art. He found out how much people loved his work.

He had a bad temper. If he did not like his art – he would rip it into pieces! This is so sad because we probably would have had more masterpieces.

In 1914 World War I began and he became a soldier and went off to war. In March of 1916 (at the age 36) he was killed in battle.