

SUNFLOWERS

Vincent van Gogh

1889

Still Life

Grade: 2

Month: October

Style: Post Impressionism

Before showing the print, share the name of the print. (Sunflowers) Do you know what sunflowers are?

Do you know what color they are?

Facts about Sunflowers

- Sunflower plants can be from 3 to 18 feet tall.
- One sunflower can have up to 2000 seeds.
- There are more than sixty different kinds of sunflowers in the U.S.
- Sunflowers originally came from the U.S.
- There are two kinds of sunflower seeds- black and striped
- Oil is made from black seeds.
- Snacks are made from striped seeds.
- Sunflower seeds are also used to feed birds.
- Sunflowers are the state flower for Kansas.
- There is only one flower on each sunflower stem.

Show the print. Look at the paint strokes. Notice the colors.

At the time van Gogh painted this he lived in a yellow house. Do you think he liked the color yellow? Think about this: when a sunflower is in full bloom it is a bright yellow, when the sunflower is wilting and slowly dying it has a tinge of brown. Do you see those colors?

What stands out the most?

Do you think this was painted from real life or from memory?

How many sunflowers are there?

Are the lines straight or wiggly? Look at the yellow color. What other colors do you think were mixed in to create the different yellows?

Look at the petals. Now look in the center of the flowers – are they all the same? Notice the color, shape and patterns.