Vincent van Gogh, “The Starry Night,” 1889
About the artist:

Vincent van Gogh was born on March 30th, 1853 in the Netherlands. His father was a pastor but he also had three sisters and two brothers, of all his siblings, Vincent was closest to his younger brother, Theo who worked in a gallery in Paris and who supported Vincent’s art career.

van Gogh had many jobs including working as a pastor like his father but by the time he reached his late twenties had decided to focus on his art. It was his brother Theo who first introduced Vincent to Impressionism and in 1886 and Vincent moved to Paris to learn from painters like Claude Monet, Edgar Degas and Paul Gauguin. Vincent wrote over 600 letters to his brother Theo during his lifetime and they are the basis for much of the thoughts and beliefs that we now know about the artist. It was during this time that his work began to show more color and his brushwork became more distinct. During this time he focused mostly on self portraits.

It was when van Gogh moved to Arles, France that his work really began to show vibrant and intense colors. He would apply his paint thickly with rough brush strokes, many times his paintings would take weeks to dry because of the thickness of the paint. Between the years of 1888 and 1889 Vincent would create many of his most famous paintings, sometimes finishing a painting in one day.

It was in 1889 that van Gogh committed himself to a mental hospital. He was singularly obsessed with art and his painting to the degree that he often wouldn’t eat or take care of himself. It is true that he cut off a portion of his ear and presented it to a lady he knew as a gift. But even in the mental hospital van Gogh continued to paint, painting not only “The Starry Night,” while there but also other famous paintings such as “Irises”. In total he would paint 150 paintings and hundreds of drawings while there. van Gogh died the morning of July 29th, 1890.
Instructions

Step 1:
Introduce students to van Gogh’s work through video(s), and history sheet provided.

Step 2:
Have students color examples of van Gogh’s paintings.

Step 3:
Have students draw a room in one point perspective, then draw their own room, the way it feels.

Step 4:
Have students create their own version of “Starry Night,” using a new color scheme.
Videos to share:

4 Minutes: Show students this short biography of van Gogh with examples of his art: “van Gogh Biography from Goodbye Art Academy”: https://youtu.be/BOdmp7_BUhY

4 Minutes: van Gogh: Painting what you see and feel - Starry Night Video Demonstration https://youtu.be/4CILnLeGMIM

14 Minutes: Show students this video on how to draw a room in one-point perspective: “How to Draw a Room in 1-Point Perspective”: https://youtu.be/Ok58EFWldDQ
van Gogh used thick paint and disjointed lines that showed movement in his painting, "Starry Night." Using the colors to the right of the painting and more if you need more, color the outline of his painting below.

NAME: ___________________________
Identify the colors that you see in van Gogh’s "Iris," by coloring the boxes to the right of the outline. Then use those colors to color the outline of his painting below.

NAME:___________________________________
Below is van Gogh's sketch of his bedroom in Arles. He made many sketches similar to this before creating his final painting. Color the line drawing below in your choice of colors.

NAME:___________________________________
Re-create the One-Point Perspective room on the previous page in the box below. You can turn the page sideways if you want the same proportion, but it isn’t necessary.
This painting is of van Gogh’s bedroom at 2, Place Lamartine in Arles, France, known as the Yellow House. There are two doors, one led to a guest room he had prepared for Paul Gauguin and the other led to the staircase. In a letter to his brother he tells him the idea came from a sickness that had left him bedridden for days.

What do you notice about one-point perspective in this painting? Do you think the room is square?

Looking at the colors in the painting, what mood does it convey? Why?
Color can convey emotion and mood in art. Using the boxes below, write an emotion below each box. Once you have four emotions listed (you must do this first), then use oil pastels to try to match the emotion or mood under each box.

Emotion:_________________________  Emotion:_________________________

Emotion:_________________________  Emotion:_________________________

van Gogh
Now draw your bedroom. You can keep in mind the perspective lesson you had, but you can also be more free to let the lines tell the story of your room. Think of the emotions you have about your room...does it make you happy? Sad? Use the colors in your artwork to convey how you feel about your bedroom.
Watch the video of “van Gogh: Paint with Feeling,” on the resources page of this packet then re-create van Gogh’s painting “Stary Night,” using a different color scheme than was used in the original painting. Given what you’ve learned about color, try again to convey an emotion or mood in your painting. Also pay attention to how the brush strokes show implied movement, making the sky appear to be moving. You can use this line drawing as a reference to lightly draw onto your paper or canvas before beginning to paint.
EXTENSION PROJECT

Using van Gogh's painting, “Wheat Field Behind Saint-Paul,” create a drawing that conveys a similar feeling. Use a soft lead pencil and kleenex or blending stump to create shading. Pay attention to the texture of the grass and the clouds while drawing.
EXTENSION PROJECT

Using the same reference, create your own version using your choice of medium: Acrylic Paint, Watercolor Paint, Oil Pastel, Mixed Media, Collage, Charcoal, Colored Pencil, or whatever you’d like. (If using acrylic paint or collage use canvas or a thick piece of paper instead.)
Color can convey emotion and mood in art. Using the boxes below, write an emotion or mood below each box. Once you have four emotions listed (you must do this first), then use oil pastels or paint to try to match the emotion or mood under each box.

Feeling: **Saying goodbye**

Feeling: **Meeting someone**

Feeling: **Growth**

Feeling: **Confused**
Example

van Gogh