RESSOURCES

« A la recherche des oeuvres d’art »

Impression, soleil levant, Claude Monnet (1872)
How to describe a picture?

Identify the artwork

- a painting
- a drawing
- a sculpture
- a monument
- watercolour
- oil painting
- acrylic
- pastel
- ink
- fresco = mural painting
- a landscape
- a seascape
- portrait
- Still life
- figurative painting

Describe the artwork

Answer the questions: What? Who? When? Where? What is it about?

1. This artwork is a ....

   it was drawn / painted / carved / made by... (+ auteur)

   It dates from...

   It represents .......

2. The scene takes place in the street, at school.... (Where?)

   During the day, at night, in the evening, in the winter ... (When?)

   There is/are ... I/we can see a .... The main characters are... (Who? / What?) + position on the picture

Feelings about the artwork

I like this ... because it’s makes me feel ... / the picture is + adjectives

I don’t like this .... because it’s makes me feel ... /the picture is + adjectives
How to describe a picture?

Types of artwork

Photography

drawing

painting

Ceramics

Collage

Textiles

Architecture

Sculpture

Film
### Types of Painting

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How to describe a picture?

Position

At the top

At the top left-hand corner
At the top right-hand corner

At the bottom

At the bottom left-hand corner
At the bottom right-hand corner

In the background

In the middle distance

In the foreground
How to describe a picture?

Preposition

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How to describe a picture?

Adjectives

The colors
Think about your overall impression of the colors used in the painting, how they look and feel, how the colors work together (or not) and how the artist has mixed them (or not).
Natural, clear, compatible, distinctive, lively, stimulating, sympathetic
Artificial, depressing, unfriendly, violent
Bright, brilliant, deep, harmonious, intense, rich, strong, vivid
Pale, quiet
Cold, warm, hot, light, dark
Blended, pure, complementary, contrasting, harmonious

Tones
Don't forget to consider the tone or values of the colors:
Dark, light, mid (middle)
Uniform, unvarying, smooth, plain
Constant, changing
Monochromatic

Mood and atmosphere
What is the mood or atmosphere of the painting? What emotions do you experience looking at it?
Calm, content, peaceful, relaxed, tranquil
Cheerful, happy, joyful, romantic
Depressed, gloomy, miserable, sad, somber, tearful, unhappy
Aggressive, angry, chilling, dark, distressing, frightening, violent
Energetic, exciting, stimulating, thought-provoking
Boring, dull, lifeless, insipid