Vincent van Gogh is one of the most well-known artists in the world. He was born in the Netherlands on March 30, 1853. He was an emotional and insecure child. He took a long time to find his direction in life as an artist. In his early thirties, he joined his brother Theo in Paris where he studied art. There he met Gaugin and Monet, and influenced by them, changed his artistic style; he took to painting in the short brushstrokes of the impressionists, a novelty at the time.

In 1888, Van Gogh moved to Arles, France where he hoped to found a school of art. His friend Gaugin spent some time in Arles with him. However, his nervous temperament and poor mental health contributed to his falling out with Gaugin. During his time in Arles, he created a multitude of paintings and drawings. It was also in Arles that his mental health deteriorated, and in an incident, he cut part of his ear. He voluntarily interned himself in an asylum in Saint-Rémy for treatment.

After treatment, he continued to suffer from delusions, depression, and psychotic episodes aggravated neglect and heavy drinking. Van Gogh was rather unsuccessful in his artistic life, having never sold a painting except to his brother who took pity on him. He was considered by many as a madman, and in 1890 he shot himself in the chest with a revolver. He died from his injuries a couple of days later. He was a misunderstood genius becoming famous only after his death.