

Life of an Artist: Timeline

Skills Objectives

Research an artist.

Identify main events in the artist's life.

Write events in sequential order.

A **Timeline** presents events in chronological order. In this activity, students research famous artists and learn about their contributions. They present the main events of each artist's life on a timeline, and then use the timeline as a reference for writing a final report.

1. Display works of famous artists. Include different art forms, such as paintings, ceramics, sculptures, and collages. Discuss how art enriches people's lives.
2. Tell students that the artists we all know of were not always famous. Though some were successful in their lifetimes, many were mocked because their art did not reflect contemporary views.
3. Tell students they will be researching the lives of famous artists. Provide children's books, encyclopedias, and other reference materials. Have students look through the materials and choose an artist to research. Provide ample time (up to a week) for students to read the materials and take notes.
4. After students complete their research, distribute the **Life of an Artist reproducible (page 90)**. Have them write the name of their chosen artist at the top of the page. Point out that the paint palettes form a timeline to help them organize information in chronological order.
5. Direct students to look at their notes and circle the six most important dates and events to put on the timeline. Remind them to choose events that provide a good understanding of who the artist was and how he or she came to acquire a distinctive style. As students work on their timelines, check that they are selecting appropriate events.
6. Have students use their timelines to write reports about their artists. Distribute copies of the **Famous Artist Report reproducible (page 91)**, and have students elaborate on the events from their timelines.
7. When reports are completed, invite students to present them to the class.

Materials

Life of an Artist reproducible

Famous Artist Report reproducible

pictures of artists' works (from library books, posters, and calendars)

reference materials for researching artists' lives, such as Mike Venezia's *Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artists* series (Children's Press)

Name _____ Date _____

Life of an Artist

Directions: Write the name of an artist on the top line. Then choose six events from the artist's life. Write the year each event occurred, and then describe the event.

Life of: Mary Cassatt

Year 1844
Born in Pennsylvania,
but moves to
France

Year 1861
Studies art in
Pennsylvania

Year 1866
Leaves for France

Year 1877
Meets Edward
Degas who influences
her style

Year 1904
Wins the Legion
of Honor

Year 1926
Dies on June 14
in France

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Life of an Artist

Directions: Write the name of an artist on the top line. Then choose six events from the artist's life. Write the year each event occurred, and then describe the event.

Life of: _____

Year _____

Year _____

Year _____

Year _____

Year _____

Year _____

