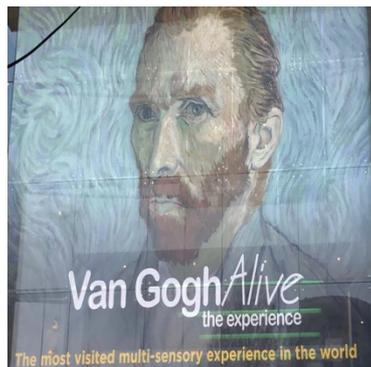


Hello!

This is a guide to help you understand the Van Gogh Alive experience at Kensington Gardens. The guide is split into three parts:

1. Getting to the exhibition
2. The Story
3. Leaving the exhibition

There will be many pictures and photographs on the walls telling the story of Vincent Van Gogh's life. This is called an **exhibition**.



## Part 1 - Getting to the exhibition

Kensington Gardens	Getting here
	<p>There are lots of ways you may be coming to Kensington Gardens.</p> <p>By bus or by train, tube, car or even walking.</p>
	<p>When you arrive you will see this.</p> <p>The Van Gogh Alive experience is inside this specially built building.</p>
The Entrance	
 	<p>The entrance to the exhibition is by the grey ramp.</p> <p>You will be met by a guide in a sparkly hat who will lead you into the building. You can ask your guide any questions.</p>



At the top of the ramp, there is a green grass-like carpet. There will be more staff members waiting to say hello.

They will be wearing sparkly hats too.



Walk along the green grass carpet. There is a sign to remind you to have your ticket ready.

Your guide will stay with you all the time.

## Inside the Gallery



You will get your tickets checked here.

It gives a lot of information and there will be a person in a sparkly hat here to help you.

There are lots of places for you to sanitize (clean) your hands, that look like this.

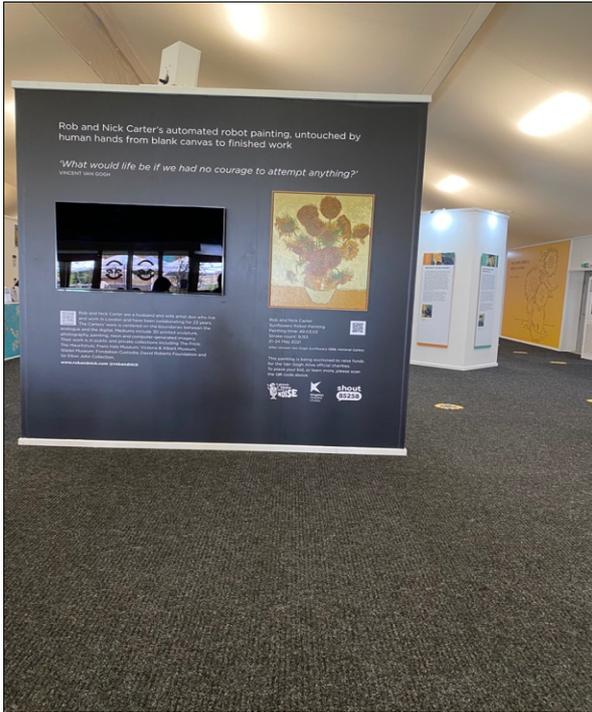


This is where the first part of the exhibition starts.

This is called a **gallery**. This is a space where paintings or posters are hung on the walls.

Follow the sunflowers on the floor.





Before you walk into the gallery space, you will be able to see a film of a picture painted by a robot!



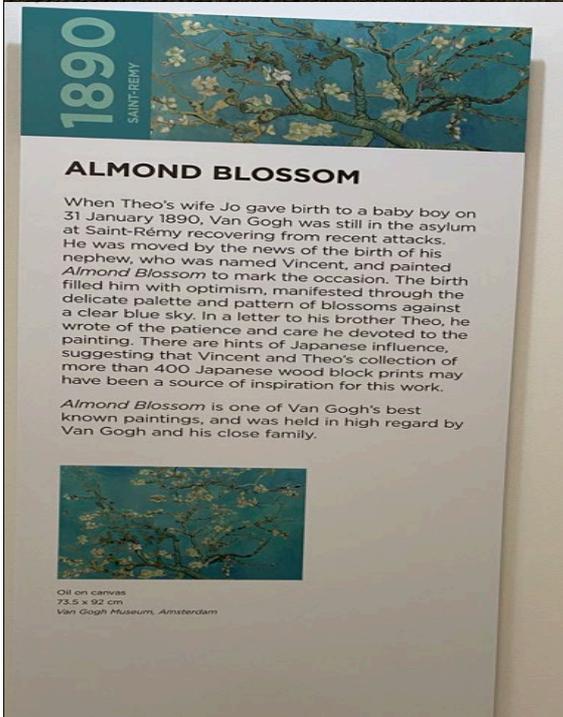
In the gallery, there are interesting posters on the walls.

These are some of the pictures that Vincent painted, that you will be able to see again in the main hall.

You can come back here whenever you want with a teacher. It is a very peaceful place to sit if you need a break from the exhibition.



You can walk around the gallery and look at the pictures. You can read more about why Vincent painted them and where he was living at the time.



This is what one of the posters looks like.

This one is called Almond Blossom and was painted in 1890 to celebrate the birth of his brother's son.

This is the first picture you see when you come through the main doors.



There are posters on both sides of the room. You can walk around the gallery looking at them, just follow the sunflowers.



Before you go into the big hall to see the main exhibition, you will pass this space.

This is a real life 'representation' (a copy) of Vincent's painting of his bedroom.

You can even go into this room and look at his bed!



On the walls, there are lots of words written by Vincent about his paintings and his love of art.





Now it is time to look at the main exhibition.

Follow the sunflowers on the floor and pass the white wall with more writing on.



Walk along the black painted corridor, following the sunflowers on the floor into the big hall at the end of the corridor.

Don't worry, your guide will show you the way in.



## Inside the Main Hall



In the main hall, your teacher will be given an area for your group to stay for the whole of the Experience.



You may want to walk about or sit on the cushions in your space and look at the paintings.



There will also be a coloured bucket which will have some clean fidget toys, in case you are feeling anxious.



There is music playing all through the Experience. It is not too loud but you can wear our ear defenders or you can bring your own.

There will also be drawing books and crayons, so you can draw too.



This is what it looks like inside the main hall.

It is quite dark as you can see in the photographs.

The pictures are very big and are all around you ...

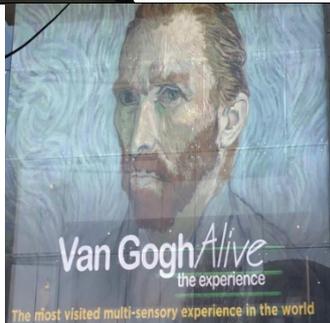


... and some are even on the floor.



Some of the pictures are paintings and some are sketches...

You may want to sketch here too.



And now it is time to start the exhibition and learn about the life of Vincent Van Gogh.

## Part 2 – The Story



- This is the story of the artist, Vincent van Gogh. *You pronounce his last name like 'Go' or Goff'.*



*But we will call him **Vincent** in this guide*



- You can follow the story of his life through his paintings.



- This guide will help you understand where he was living, what he was doing and how he was feeling at different times of his life.
- When you look at the paintings you will be in a very large space, and they will be all around you – even on the floor.
-  There is music playing all the time. The music changes the mood and will make you think about how happy or sad Vincent was at that time. It may be a little loud and it is OK to wear your ear defenders.

- You will know when he moves to different places:

*... the room will go a bit darker ...*

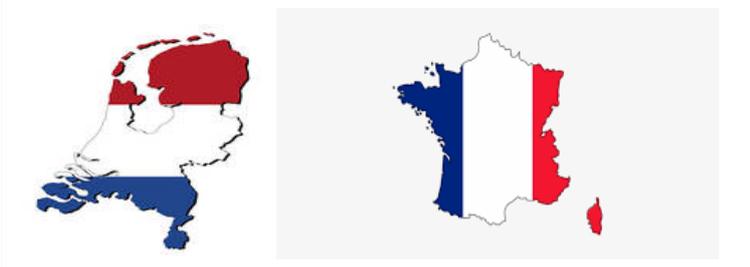
*... the music gradually stops...*

*... the places and dates will be written on the walls...*

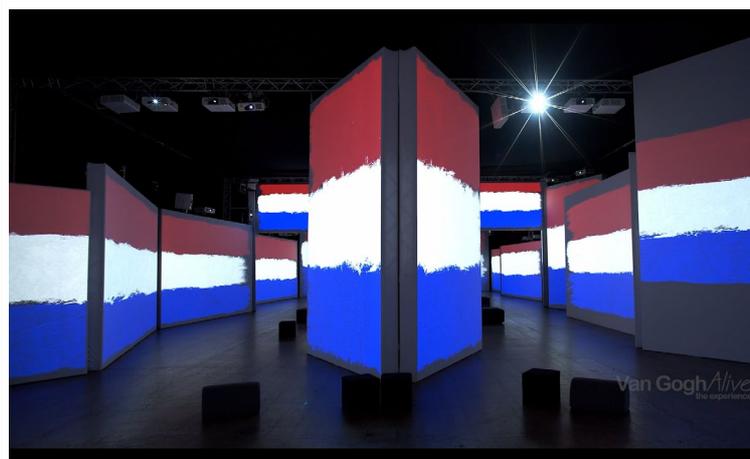
*... there will be Vincent's self-portraits (pictures he painted of himself)...*

*.... and different music will start to play again*

But remember, you can leave the large space any time you want. If you feel scared or worried, or just want a little peace. There are many places to chill out in, just ask someone in a sparkly hat to show you.



We first see maps of the Netherlands (where Vincent was born) and a map of France where he painted most of his paintings.



Red, white and blue are the colours of both the flags from the Netherlands and France.



It looks as if the colours are being painted on the walls and even the floor.



Then we are introduced to Vincent van Gogh, showing lots of pictures painted by himself. These are called self-portraits.

He would look at himself in a mirror and paint what he saw.



	The Netherlands	1880 - 1885
	Paris	1886 - 1888
	Arles	1888 - 1889
	Saint-Remy	1889 - 1890
	Auvers sur Oise	1890 - 1890

## The Netherlands

Vincent was born here and this is where his painting journey started.



These are pictures of Vincent's life in the Netherlands. There are a lot of windmills in the Netherlands.



The paintings are very dark – lots of browns, blues and greens. It may seem quite dark in this room.



He liked to paint pictures of his shoes and boots.



He painted pictures of fields and farm workers.



The colours in the Netherlands seem very dark and Vincent was not happy here. He wanted to be with other painters and learn new skills. So he moved to Paris.

**Paris, France 1886 - 1888**

**Vincent was here for two years and met some famous painters and studied their style of painting.**



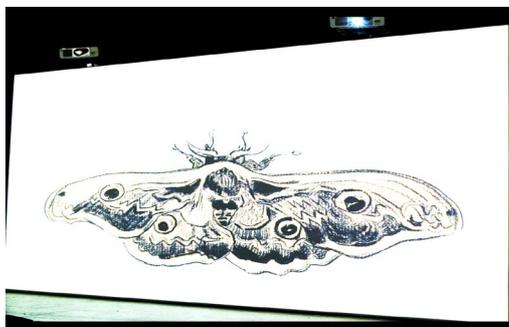
Vincent uses much brighter colours in his paintings and you can feel that Vincent was much happier in Paris.



Even the music sounds jollier.



He painted lots of pictures of Paris, the capital of France.



He liked to study everything in detail... even a moth!



Can you see how much brighter his paintings are when he lived in Paris? He uses lighter tones - blues and creams and yellows, as he is feeling more content.





He liked to paint fruit...



... trees



... and flowers.



Vincent loved Japanese art. This influenced some of his paintings.

Watch the blossom falling from the trees, while you listen to the Japanese style music.

Vincent was finding it hard to carry on living in Paris as he started to disagree with some of the other artists. He felt he had learnt all he had to know from them. He had heard that the light was better in the South of France – so he followed the sun.

Arles 1888 – 1889



Vincent travelled by train to the South of France – where it is much hotter, and the sun shines more than in Paris.



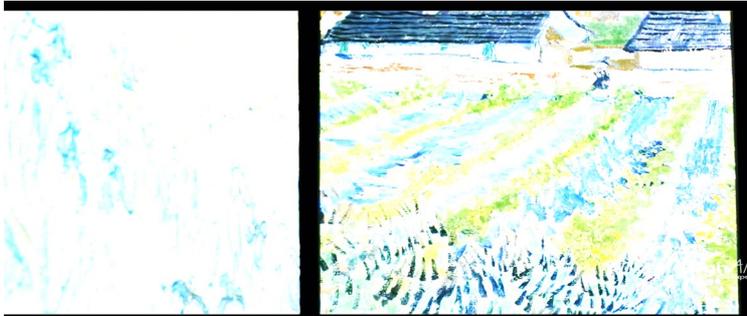
This section starts with Vincent's train journey - from Paris to Arles.



You can watch as the train travels around the screens.



There were lots of sunflowers growing in the fields here and Vincent liked to paint them.



There were also lots of other flowers growing in the fields... lavender and irises.



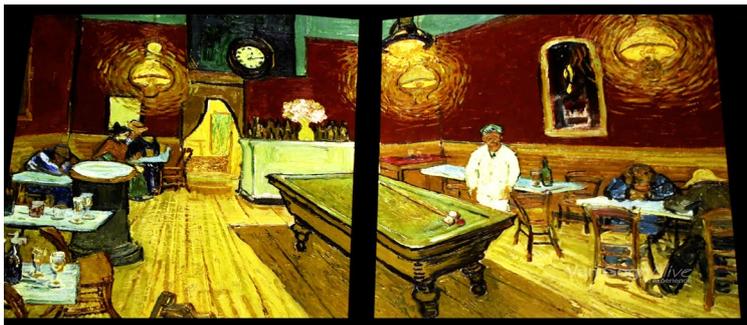
Vincent would spend time in the local cafés in the evening.

He painted this picture of a very starry night in Arles.





He painted the people inside the cafés too.



And even the games they played ... billiards and cards.



He painted lots of pictures of people and families whom he met when he lived in Arles.



Vincent painted pictures of different things - even his bedroom.

This is a very famous picture. Do you recognise this picture?



Vincent loved the colour yellow and even lived in this yellow house.

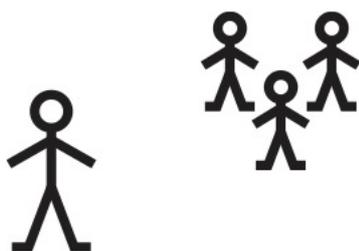
He said...

*'and all the ground is yellow, too'*



Vincent would spend a lot of time in the countryside painting.

He used light blue and yellow paint in his pictures.



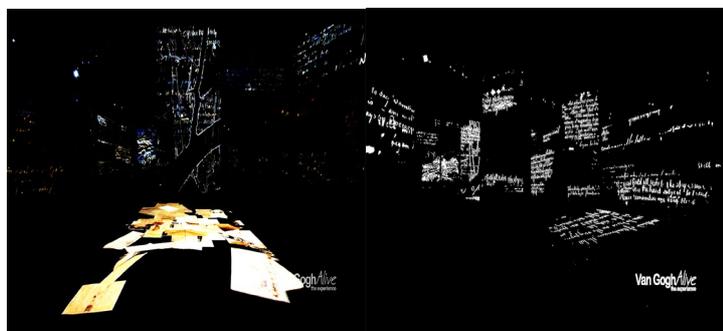
Vincent started to feel lonely after a while and felt people didn't understand him.

Warning: The music changes and everywhere seems to go a deep red colour.



He was very poorly and tried to cut off his ear.

This is a picture Vincent painted of himself after he tried to cut off his ear.



Through his life, Vincent wrote letters to his brother. The walls and the floor are covered with the letters he sent.

Saint-Remy 1889 - 1890

Vincent decided that he needed to go to hospital. He left Arles and his yellow house and went to a hospital in Saint-Remy.



Here Vincent sometimes felt calm and other times felt very sad.

This can be seen in the different colours he uses in his pictures whilst he was staying in the hospital.



Here are some pictures from the inside of the hospital. You can see some of the other patients if you look closely.



These are some of his paintings when he was feeling at peace.



And these paintings are when he was feeling frustrated and angry.



Look at the paintings and see how the colours make you feel.



Look out for the ripples of the river.

In the hospital, the doctors had done all they could to make Vincent feel better and so he left Saint-Remy and went to stay with his friend Doctor Gachet, in the north of France, to look after him.



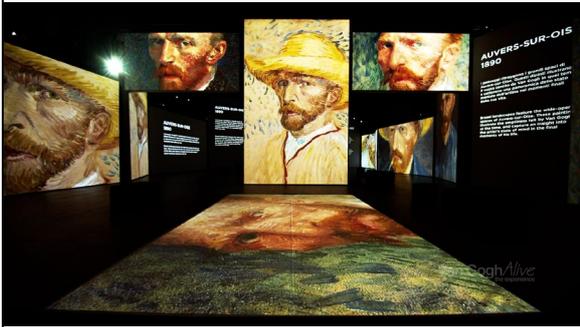
**Warning: This is the last part of Vincent's life. We know that he is still sad and feeling lonely and misunderstood.**

**The lights will start to get darker and the music becomes more and more dramatic.**

**You can use your ear defenders and even close your eyes if it gets to be a little scary now.**

**Auvers-sur-Oise 1890**

**This was the last place that Vincent lived.**



Vincent went to stay with Doctor Gachet who was a family friend.



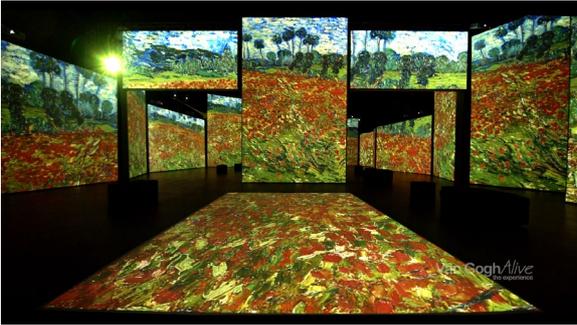
When he was staying here, he painted lots and lots of pictures. Almost one every day for a year!



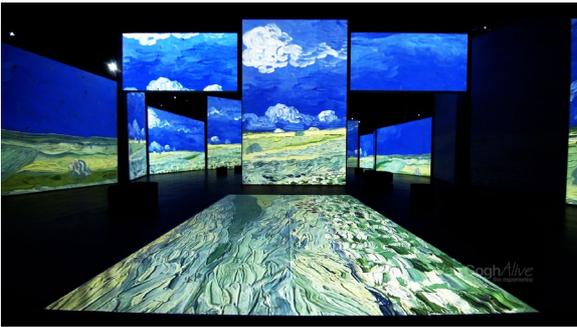
But as the days went on, Vincent was becoming more depressed.



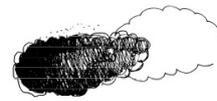
See how the skies are darker than before. They look very dark and stormy now.



And the colours he uses to paint with are not as bright or cheerful as when he was living in Arles.



The paintings are also looking wilder. The skies look dark and a little frightening.



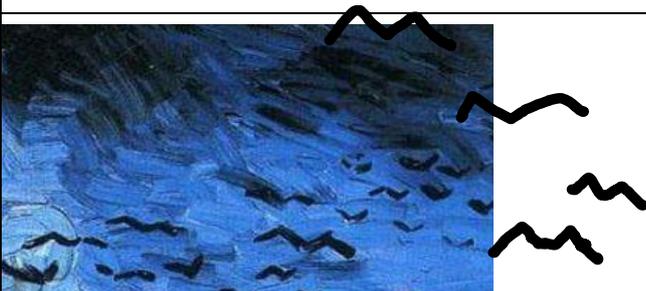
Poor Vincent must be feeling very sad now.



This is a picture of crows in a cornfield. It looks as if a storm is coming.



This is one of Vincent's last paintings before his life came to an end.



At the end of the exhibition, the crows will fly up and away.

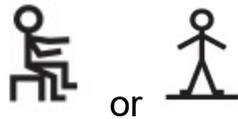
The lights will go out for a very short time.

... and then you will hear more music and see some of Vincent's self-portraits again.



This will help you remember him as we have seen him in his story, sometimes happy and sometimes sad.

The lights will come back on.



You may need a little time just to think about what you have seen. Sitting or standing quietly or talking with your friends.

Everyone has a different way of showing their emotions and expressing how they feel. You can cry or laugh...

... or you may want to paint your own feelings, like Vincent.

And now it is time to see some more sunflowers.



## Part 3 – Leaving the exhibition

### The Sunflower Room



Before you leave, you can experience what it would be like to be in a field of sunflowers.

Your guide will lead you to this room.

You will walk down this passage.

It is quite dark but you will see the orange glow of the sunflowers.



Vincent loved sunflowers, which is why the exhibition has a whole room full of them.

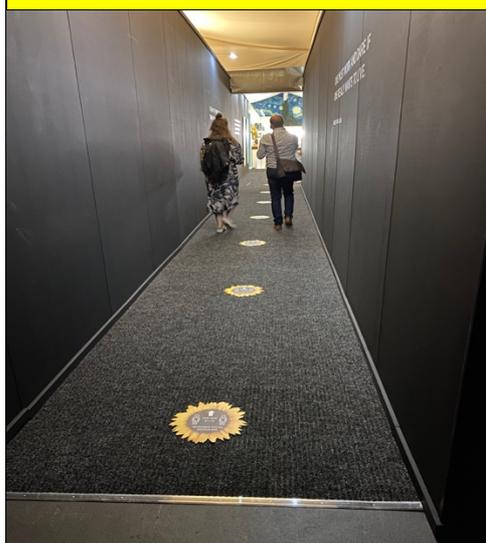


This is inside the Sunflower Room.

It is very beautiful in here.

You may just want to stand still and look around you.

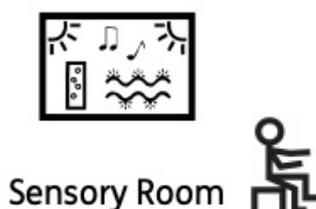
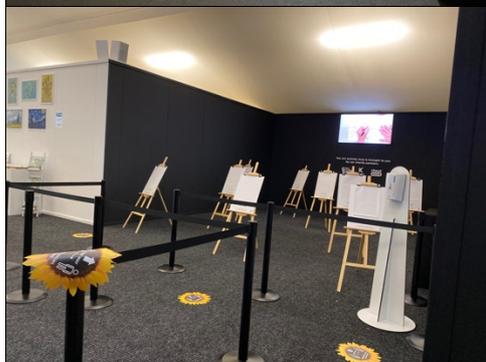
## Leaving the exhibition



When you leave the Sunflower Room, you will walk down another corridor.

Follow the sunflowers.

Your guide will show you the way.



You will walk past this area.

But you can come to this space anytime you like with your teacher if you need to chill out. Ask your guide to show you the way.

There will be cushions, soft mats, bubble lights and fidget toys ready.



You will walk past the shop; it is on the left side and the toilets on the right side.



This is a café that your group may stop at for a drink or to eat a snack.



You will go outside through these doors.



Goodbye

It is time to go now.

There will be more people coming in to see the exhibition.

You will see this sign as you leave.

Thank you for coming.