

Georgia O'Keeffe

Who Is Georgia O'Keeffe?

Georgia O'Keeffe was a famous American artist, best known for her amazing paintings of flowers, skyscrapers and landscapes.



Early Life

Georgia was born on 15th November 1887 in Wisconsin, USA. She grew up on a farm with six brothers and sisters. From a young age, she loved nature and she decided by the age of ten that she wanted to be an artist. Her mum, Ida, encouraged Georgia and arranged for her to have art lessons.

Georgia went to art school in Chicago and then to New York to learn about painting. Georgia had her first gallery show in 1916. It was difficult being a woman artist at this time in America. Most famous artists at this time were men and some people didn't think women could be serious artists.

What Did Georgia Paint?

Georgia began painting in a new and different way. She put her face close to a flower and painted what she saw. This made the smallest flower into the biggest painting! She used oil paints in bright, brave colours and she painted on very big canvases. People liked her paintings because they were unusual and people couldn't work out what they were looking at. Her artwork quickly became popular and she became successful.



Georgia was interested in the tall buildings of New York City where she lived. She painted towering skyscrapers from below, which made people feel small when they looked at them. In 1929, Georgia visited New Mexico and was amazed by the wide, open landscape. She liked the unusual light, rocks and animal bones she found there. She began painting landscapes and objects in New Mexico and these paintings were also a success.

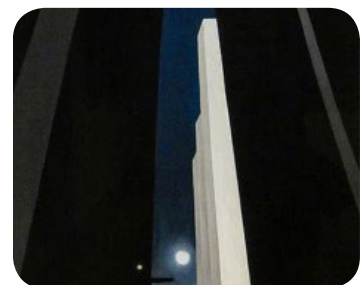


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How Is Georgia Remembered?

Georgia painted thousands of paintings in her lifetime and her work has been shown all over the world. She is now remembered as one of the greatest American artists. The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum opened in Santa Fe in 1997.



Did You Know...?

In 2014, one of Georgia's paintings sold for 44.4 million dollars (28.8 million pounds)!

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Questions

1. What did Georgia love from a young age? Tick one.

- music
- nature
- playing
- acting

2. When was Georgia's first gallery show? Tick one.

- 1816
- 1916
- 1691
- 1986

3. Draw lines to complete the sentences about Georgia.

Georgia painted	to learn about painting.
Georgia went to New York	made people feel small.
Georgia's paintings	in a new and different way.

4. Number the events below to show the order in which they happened in Georgia's life.

- Georgia's mum arranged for her to have art lessons.
- 1 Georgia was born on 15th November 1887.
- Georgia visited New Mexico.
- The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum opened in Santa Fe.
- Georgia went to Chicago.

5. Fill in the missing words in this sentence.

Georgia made the _____ flower into the _____ painting.

6. As well as flowers, what else did Georgia paint?

7. Why was it difficult being a woman artist at this time in America?

Answers

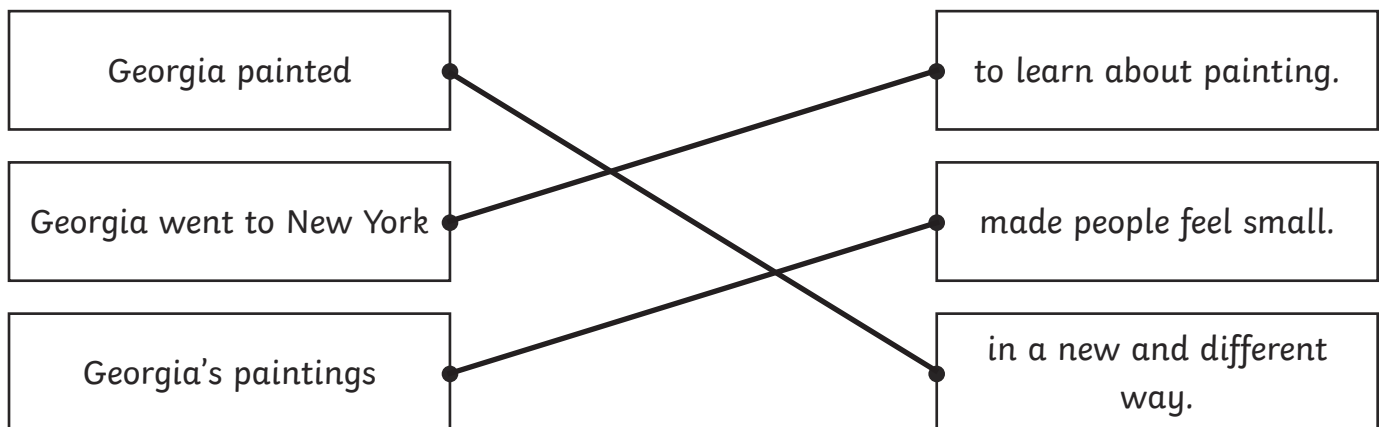
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- music
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2. When was Georgia's first gallery show? Tick one.

- 1816
- 1916**
- 1691
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3. Draw lines to complete the sentences about Georgia.



4. Number the events below to show the order in which they happened in Georgia's life.

- 2** Georgia's mum arranged for her to have art lessons.
- 1** Georgia was born on 15th November 1887.
- 4** Georgia visited New Mexico.
- 5** The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum opened in Santa Fe.
- 3** Georgia went to Chicago.

5. Fill in the missing words in this sentence.

Georgia made the **smallest** flower into the **biggest** painting.

6. As well as flowers, what else did Georgia paint?

As well as flowers, Georgia painted buildings and landscapes in New Mexico.

7. Why was it difficult being a woman artist at this time in America?

Pupils' own responses, such as: It was difficult being a woman artist at this time in America because most famous artists were men and some people didn't think women could be serious artists.

Georgia O'Keeffe

Georgia O'Keeffe was a famous American artist, best known for her paintings of flowers, skyscrapers and the landscape of New Mexico.

Early Life

Georgia was born on 15th November 1887 on a wheat farm in Wisconsin, USA. She was the second of seven children. Although there were lots of chores to do on the farm, she always had a sketchbook in her hand. She was interested in nature and decided by the age of ten that she wanted to be an artist. Her mum and dad were both farmers but her mum, Ida, had wanted to be a doctor and made sure her children were well educated. Ida encouraged Georgia's love of art and arranged for her to have art lessons.



When she was old enough, Georgia went to art school in Chicago and then to New York to study painting. After this, she moved to Texas to teach art but she kept drawing. It wasn't easy being a woman artist in America at this time. Most famous artists were men and some people didn't take women artists seriously. Georgia had her first **exhibition** in 1916.

Flowers, Buildings and New Mexico

Georgia began painting in a new and different way. Instead of painting a vase of flowers from a distance, as painters had before her, she put her face close to one flower and painted what she saw. Suddenly, the smallest flower became an enormous painting! She used oil paints in bright, bold colours and she painted on huge canvases. People thought



her paintings were very unusual because they couldn't always work out what they were looking at. She was one of the first American artists to paint in this **abstract** style. Her paintings became very popular and her success continued to grow.

Georgia was inspired by the tall buildings of New York City where she lived. She painted towering skyscrapers from below – as a child would see them. In 1929, Georgia visited New Mexico and was amazed by the wide, open landscape. She was fascinated by the incredible rock formations, unusual

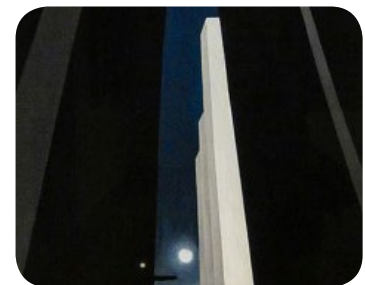


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light and animal bones dried out by the sun. She began painting landscapes and objects in New Mexico and these paintings added to her success.

Georgia's Legacy

Georgia painted thousands of paintings in her lifetime and her work has been shown at galleries all over the world. Her **legacy** is that she is remembered as one of the greatest American artists of the twentieth century and the 'Mother of American Modernism'. The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum opened in Santa Fe in 1997 to remember her. You can see many of her paintings on display there.



Glossary

abstract: A style of art that uses shape, lines and colour in a way that does not show things exactly as they are.

exhibition: An event where art such as paintings are shown, often in a gallery.

legacy: How someone is remembered.

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Questions

1. What kind of farm was Georgia born on? Tick one.

- dairy
- vegetable
- wheat
- fruit

2. What was Georgia interested in as a child? Tick **two**.

- nature
- buildings
- maths
- art

3. Draw lines to show different things that happened to Georgia at different stages of her life.

As a child,	she became interested in tall buildings.
In New York	she was amazed by the landscape.
In New Mexico	her mother arranged for her to take art lessons.

4. Number the events below to show the order in which they happened in Georgia's life.

- Georgia had her first gallery show.
- 1 Georgia was born on 15th November 1887.
- Georgia visited New Mexico.
- The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum opened in Santa Fe.
- Georgia went to Chicago.

5. What does the word **abstract** mean?

6. Why was it difficult being a woman artist at this time in America?

7. Which of Georgia's paintings (flowers, buildings or landscapes) would you most like to own? Give two reasons for your answer.

8. Why do you think Georgia's paintings were so popular? Give reasons for your answer.

Answers

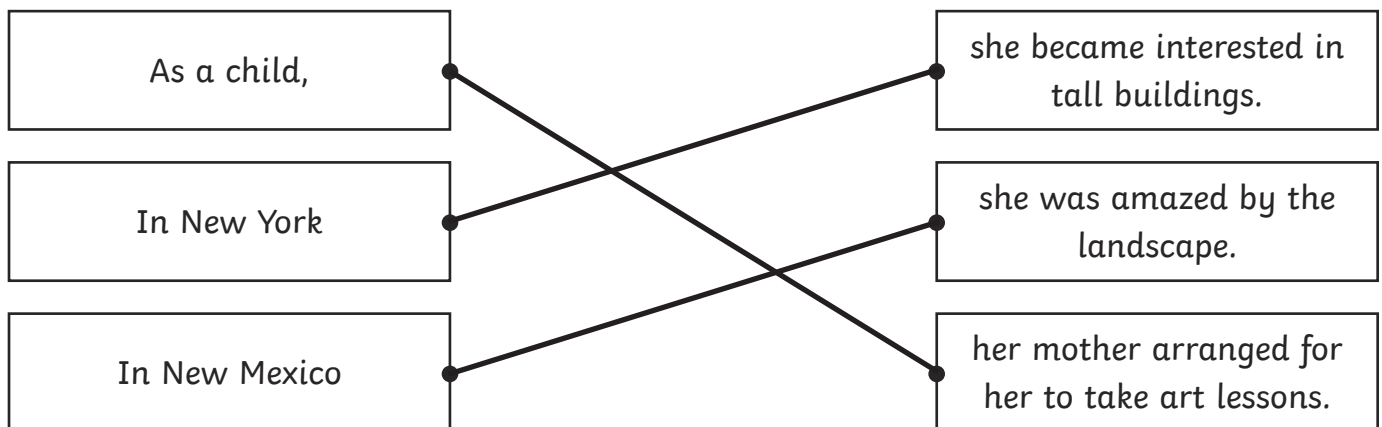
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4. Number the events below to show the order in which they happened in Georgia's life.

- 3** Georgia had her first gallery show.
- 1** Georgia was born on 15th November 1887.
- 4** Georgia visited New Mexico.
- 5** The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum opened in Santa Fe.
- 2** Georgia went to Chicago.

5. What does the word **abstract** mean?

The word abstract means a style of art that uses shape, lines and colour in a way that does not show things exactly as they are.

6. Why was it difficult being a woman artist at this time in America?

It was difficult being a woman artist at this time in America because most famous artists were men and some people didn't think women could be serious artists.

7. Which of Georgia's paintings (flowers, buildings or landscapes) would you most like to own? Give two reasons for your answer.

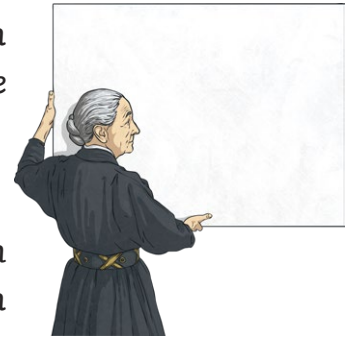
Pupils' own responses, such as: I would most like to own one of Georgia's flower paintings because they are painted in bright colours and the abstract style is very unusual.

8. Why do you think Georgia's paintings were so popular? Give reasons for your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Georgia's paintings were so popular because they were painted in a new and unusual way and people found this interesting because they had never seen anything like it before.

Georgia O'Keeffe

Georgia O'Keeffe was a famous American artist, best known for her paintings of flowers, skyscrapers and the landscape of New Mexico.



Early Life

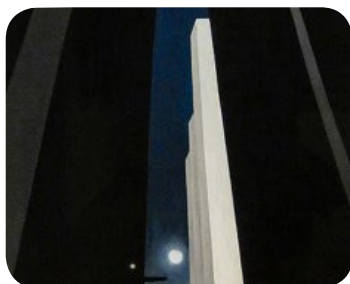
Georgia was born on 15th November 1887 on a wheat farm in Wisconsin, USA. She was the second of seven children so she was rarely lonely growing up. Although there were many chores to do on the farm, she always had a sketchbook in her hand. She was fascinated by nature and decided by the age of ten that she wanted to be an artist. Her mum and dad were both farmers but her mum, Ida, had dreamed of being a doctor and wanted her children to be well educated. Ida encouraged Georgia's love of art and arranged for her to have art lessons.



When she was old enough, Georgia went to art school in Chicago and then to New York to study painting. After this, she moved to Texas to teach art but she kept drawing. It was challenging being a female artist at this time as most famous artists at this time were male and some people didn't take women artists seriously. She sent some of her drawings to a friend, who showed them to a famous photographer, Alfred Stieglitz; he **exhibited** Georgia's work in his gallery in 1916.

A Brand-New Style

Georgia began painting in a new and innovative way. Instead of painting a vase of flowers from far away (as American painters before her had always done) she put her face close to one flower and painted what she saw, **magnified**. She used oil paints in vivid, bold colours and she painted on a huge scale. At first, people were perplexed by her paintings and couldn't work out what they were looking at; when they realised, they were impressed.



She was one of the first American artists to paint in this **abstract** style. Her paintings became very popular and she became successful.

Georgia was inspired by the tall buildings of New York City where she lived. She painted the towering skyscrapers from below – as a child would see them. In 1929, Georgia visited New Mexico and was amazed

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by the wide, open landscape that reminded her of her childhood. She was fascinated by the unusual light, rocks and animal bones. She was also very influenced by **Navajo culture**. She began painting landscapes and objects in New Mexico and these paintings added to her success.



Artistic Legacy

Georgia painted thousands of paintings in her lifetime and her work has been exhibited at galleries all over the world. Her **legacy** is that she is one of the greatest American artists of the twentieth century and has been called the 'Mother of American **Modernism**'. The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum opened in Santa Fe in 1997 and many of her paintings are on display there.

Glossary

abstract: A style of art that uses shape, lines and colour in a way that does not show things as they are.

exhibited: To show something publicly, such as paintings in a gallery.

legacy: How someone is remembered.

magnified: To make something appear larger than it is.

Modernism: A style of art that is less traditional.

Navajo culture: The art, music and clothing of the Native American people of the Southwestern United States.

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Questions

1. Where did Georgia study art? Tick **two**.

- Chicago
- Wisconsin
- New York
- New Mexico

2. What kind of culture was Georgia interested in? Tick one.

- British
- Navajo
- American
- Indian

3. How did Georgia get her work **exhibited** for the first time?

4. Find a phrase that tells you Georgia loved drawing as a child.

5. Find and copy two words that show Georgia was impressed by the landscape of New Mexico.

6. Sum up Georgia's **legacy**.

7. Explain why you think Georgia had to work harder than some other artists of the time to achieve her dream. Give two reasons from the text.

8. Imagine you are an art critic at the time that Georgia's flower paintings first appeared. Write a short review of the paintings.

Answers

1. Where did Georgia study art? Tick **two**.

- Chicago**
- Wisconsin
- New York**
- New Mexico

2. What kind of culture was Georgia interested in? Tick one.

- British
- Navajo**
- American
- Indian

3. How did Georgia get her work **exhibited** for the first time?

Georgia got her work exhibited for the first time by sending some of her drawings to a friend, who showed them to a famous photographer, Alfred Stieglitz, who exhibited them.

4. Find a phrase that tells you Georgia loved drawing as a child.

...she always had a sketchbook in her hand.

5. Find and copy two words that show Georgia was impressed by the landscape of New Mexico.

Accept the two following answers: amazed; fascinated

6. Sum up Georgia's **legacy**.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Georgia's legacy is that she is remembered as one of the greatest American artists of the twentieth century, has been called the 'Mother of American Modernism' and has a gallery named after her.

7. Explain why you think Georgia had to work harder than some other artists of the time to achieve her dream. Give two reasons from the text.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Georgia had to work harder than some other artists because she was a woman and some people didn't take women artists seriously at this time. Also, because her style was new and different from what artists had done before, she had to work hard to convince people her art was good.

8. Imagine you are an art critic at the time that Georgia's flower paintings first appeared. Write a short review of the paintings.

Pupils' own responses, such as: These spectacular paintings are unlike anything I've ever seen! The colours are bright and the canvases are huge. It took me a while to work out what I was looking at but as soon as I realised, I was spellbound! New York has never seen anything like this and I expect her to be a big success.