

Pablo Picasso 1881 - 1973

Key Facts

Pablo Picasso was born in Spain in 1881 but spent most of his adult life working as an artist in Paris. His mother stated that his first words were to ask for a pencil. His father, a painter and professor of art, was impressed by his natural skill and technique and started formally training him at the age of seven.

Over the course of his career, Picasso created more than 20,000 paintings, drawings, sculptures, ceramics and other items such as costumes and theatre sets.

As one of the most important artists of the twentieth century, Picasso is renowned for his ability to produce artworks in an astonishing range of styles. He co-founded the Cubist art movement alongside Georges Braque, invented collage and made significant contributions to Symbolism and Surrealism.

Picasso's Surrealist masterpiece Guernica, painted in 1937, is considered the most powerful anti-war statement in modern art. The dark colours and monochrome theme were used to depict war as a brutal act of self-destruction.

For the Weeping Woman series (1937) Picasso focuses on the theme of suffering. The model for the paintings, Dora Maar, was working as a photographer when she met Picasso. She was his partner until 1944.

Now known as the father of modern art, Picasso died in 1973.

What else was going on in the World?

1914 - 1918	World War I
1936 - 1939	Spanish Civil War
1939 - 1945	World War II

Key Skills

<b>Drawing</b>	Draw confidently in a variety of styles using a choice of techniques. Show an understanding of colour and how colours are combined to create an effect.
<b>Discuss an artist's work</b>	Talk critically about and get inspiration from the work of Pablo Picasso. Write about the artist and artworks by finding information and describing their responses.



Key Vocabulary

<b>Cubism</b>	Objects broken down into geometric shapes such as cubes, spheres, cylinders, and cones. Artists used the shapes to show many sides of the original object at the same time.
<b>Surrealism</b>	An expression of subconscious thought. Paintings often feature distorted objects and dreamlike visions.
<b>Symbolism</b>	When one object or thing stands in the place of something else such as an idea, a person or place.
<b>monochrome</b>	One colour.
<b>model</b>	A person who poses for an artist to draw, paint, sculpt or photograph.
<b>abstract</b>	Not intended to represent recognisable objects, people or places in the real world.
<b>art movement</b>	A specific style of art used by a group of artists for a period of time.

