

**Spring Year 5**

**Unit: Exploring Painting Portraits**

**Focus: Colour Mixing, Tone, Light and Shadow in Portraiture**

**Artist Focus: Rembrandt**

**National Curriculum Links (Painting – KS2)**

- Develop painting techniques, including control, precision and the use of texture.
- Improve mastery of painting techniques, including colour mixing and tonal variation.
- Use colour, tone, light and shade to represent form and depth.
- Create sketch books to record observations and review ideas.
- Learn about great artists and understand how their work has influenced art history and their own work.

**Expected Prior Learning (what pupils already know and can do)**

Pupils will have:

- Mixed primary and secondary colours using paint.
- Used tints and shades to create simple tonal changes.
- Painted still life objects using observation.
- Explored brush control and layering techniques.
- Discussed artwork by artists and described colour choices and composition.

This unit builds on these skills by developing portrait painting, tonal contrast, texture, and understanding how artists use light and shadow to create dramatic effects.

**End Goals (Know That / Know How)**

**Know that:**

- Portraits show a person's face, expression and character.
- Rembrandt used strong contrasts of light and dark called chiaroscuro.
- Artists use tone, shadow and highlights to create depth and realism.
- Texture in painting can be created through brushstrokes and layering.
- A colour palette is a carefully chosen group of colours used in artwork.
- Rembrandt often used warm browns, golds, reds and deep shadows in his portraits.

**Know how to:**

- Mix colours to create a Rembrandt-inspired colour palette.
- Use tone to show facial features, light and shadow.
- Apply texture using layered brushstrokes.
- Observe facial proportions and sketch portrait outlines.
- Create a painted portrait inspired by Rembrandt using light, shadow and tone.

**Key Vocabulary**

**Colour & Tone:**

tone, tint, shade, highlight, shadow, contrast, palette

**Technique:**

blend, layer, texture, brush control, glazing

**Art Language:**

portrait, composition, foreground, background, chiaroscuro, expression

### **Session 1 – Exploring Painting Techniques**

**Kapow Link: Year 5 Painting – Lesson 1**

**Learning Objective:**

Explore painting techniques including layering and texture.

**Activities:**

Experiment with brush techniques, layering paint, creating texture and using different brush sizes to create detail.

**Assessment Focus:**

Uses brushes with increasing control and experiments with texture and layering.

### **Session 2 – Colour Mixing and Tonal Painting**

**Kapow Link: Year 5 Painting – Lesson 2**

**Learning Objective:**

Develop colour mixing skills and create tonal variations.

**Activities:**

Mix primary and secondary colours, then create tints, shades and skin tones. Explore warm and cool tones.

**Assessment Focus:**

Mixes colours accurately and demonstrates understanding of tonal variation.

### **Session 3 – Artist Study: Rembrandt**

**Learning Objective:**

Explore portrait painting through the work of an artist.

**Activities:**

Study portraits by Rembrandt. Discuss facial expression, use of shadow, warm colour palette and dramatic lighting. Introduce chiaroscuro and create a Rembrandt colour palette using browns, ochres, reds and golds.

**Assessment Focus:**

Understands how Rembrandt used light and shadow and creates an artist-inspired colour palette.

### **Session 4 – Facial Features and Portrait Sketching**

**Learning Objective:**

Sketch a portrait using observation and proportion.

**Activities:**

Practise drawing facial proportions and features. Use mirrors or photographs to sketch a simple portrait outline ready for painting.

**Assessment Focus:**

Shows understanding of facial proportion and careful observation.

**Session 5 – Painting a Portrait in the Style of Rembrandt**

**Learning Objective:**

Begin painting a portrait using tone, light and shadow.

**Activities:**

Use portrait sketches to begin painting. Apply the Rembrandt palette and focus on shadow placement, highlights and texture.

**Assessment Focus:**

Applies tone carefully and begins to create form using shadow and light.

**Session 6 – Final Portrait Painting**

**Learning Objective:**

Complete a portrait painting using texture, tone and composition.

**Activities:**

Finish painting portraits, refine shadows and highlights, add texture through brushwork, and evaluate work inspired by Rembrandt.

**Assessment Focus:**

Uses colour, tone and texture effectively and produces a balanced portrait in the style of Rembrandt.

**Links to Future Learning**

- Painting skills: develops advanced tonal painting and colour control for upper KS2.
- Observation: strengthens drawing and painting from observation for portraiture and figure work.
- Composition: supports planning and arranging artwork with purpose.
- Artist study: deepens understanding of how artists use colour, light and shadow to create mood and realism.

**Differentiation**

**Support:** simplified portrait outlines, limited colour palette, teacher modelling, use of photo references.

**Challenge:** more detailed facial features, stronger tonal contrast, advanced texture techniques, independent colour mixing and background composition.

**Resources**

Sketchbooks, pencils, mirrors, portrait photographs, paints (poster paint or acrylic), palettes, a range of brushes, water pots, large cartridge paper, aprons, table coverings, colour mixing charts, warm colour

reference cards, reference images of portraits by Rembrandt, visualiser or interactive whiteboard for modelling techniques.