



Artist & Composer Study

This session's featured artist is John James Audubon. We've included four art selections for your kids and teens to use for picture study. They are:

- *American Goldfinch*
- *American Robin*
- *Bluejay*
- *Ruby-Throated Hummingbird*

Our featured composer is Olivier Messiaen. We've included four of his pieces (with links to each) to listen to. They are:

- *Oiseaux Exotiques*
- *Le Réveil des Oiseaux*
- *Catalogue d'oiseaux*
- *Le Merle Noir*

Artist & Composer Study



John James Audubon

April 26, 1785 - January 27, 1851

John James Audubon (born as Jean-Jacques Rabin) was a naturalist, painter, and ornithologist who is best known for his book, *The Birds of America*, which is widely considered to be one of the most important works on ornithology ever published.

Audubon was born in the French colony, Saint-Domingue (modern day Haiti), on April 26, 1785. His father, Jean Audubon, was a French naval officer and his mother, Jeanne Rabin, was a chambermaid. Jean Audubon was an early settler in the area who eventually became a wealthy plantation owner. But due to slave unrest on the island, he sent his children to France to live with his wife, Anne, in 1791.

Audubon's parents recognized his talent for drawing at a young age, and sent him to Paris to study painting when he was just 12 years old. However, in 1803 during the Napoleonic Wars, his father obtained a false passport for him, changed his name to John James (an anglicized version of Jean-Jacques) and he immigrated to the United States.

Having always been an avid outdoorsman, Audubon settled in Pennsylvania on the family farm (previously purchased by his father after the American Revolutionary War). He found it to be a wondrous paradise filled with all manner of creatures for sport and observation. There he observed "The nature of the place—whether high or low, moist or dry, whether sloping north or south, or bearing tall trees or low shrubs—generally gives hint as to its inhabitants." He also met his future wife, Lucy Bakewell.

Audubon became fascinated with birds at this time and in 1827, Audubon embarked on a journey with two friends to discover and paint every bird species in North America. He was determined to depict them in a more realistic manner than his predecessors.

He began avidly collecting specimens for his paintings, preserving their bodies, posing them in natural positions using wire. Then he created remarkable illustrations from watercolor and gouache, and included multiple birds in most plates in order to show their full anatomy and colorings. He used the knowledge gathered in his extensive field research to create lifelike scenes for the birds.

This expedition and subsequent book, *The Birds of America*, took him more than ten years to complete, with over 700 life studies of birds, and 435 published plates between 1827 and 1838.

Audubon is often remembered as one of the most important bird painters in history, but he did not limit himself to painting birds. He also painted mammals, reptiles, fish, and even insects in his lifetime.

He died on January 27, 1851. However, his legacy lives on through his incredible artwork, and his book continues to be an important source of inspiration and fascination for ornithologists, naturalists, and artists around the world.

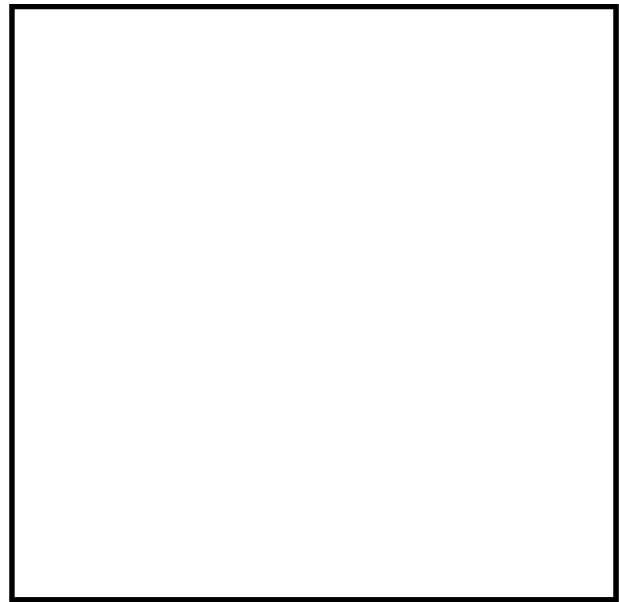
Artist Study

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Artist Fun Facts: _____



Art Mediums Used: _____

Famous Artworks: _____

Further Study:





American Robin.
 TURDUS MIGRATORIUS.
 Male & Female & Young &
 Nest and Branches.



Blue Jay.
CORVUS CRISTATUS,
Male 1. Female 2, 3.



Ruby-throated Humming Birds . Male 1. F 2. Young 3.
 TROCHILUS COLUBRIS.

Plant. *Bignonia radicans*
 Vulgo. Trumpet Flower.

Picture Study

Title: _____

Date Created: _____

Art Mediums Used: _____

Further Study: _____

Use the box to draw a picture inspired by this artwork.

