



Artist & Composer Study

This session's featured artist is J.M.W. Turner. We've included six art selections for your kids and teens to use for picture study. They are:

- *The Burning of the Houses of Lords and Commons* (1835)
- *Keelmen Heaving in Coals by Moonlight* (1835)
- *The Fighting Temeraire* (1839)
- *Rockets and Blue Lights (Close at Hand) to Warn Steamboats of Shoal Water* (1840)
- *Rain, Steam, and Speed* (1844)
- *Norham Castle, Sunrise* (1845)

Our featured composer is Ludwig van Beethoven. We've included six of his pieces with listening links. They are:

- Symphony No. 5 in C Minor
- Symphony No. 6 "Pastoral"
- Symphony No. 9 "Ode to Joy"
- Piano Sonata No. 14 "Moonlight Sonata"
- Symphony No. 3 "Eroica"
- String Quartets opus 59, No. 1 "Razumovsky"

Artist & Composer Study



J.M.W. Turner

April 23, 1775 - December 19, 1851

Joseph Mallord William Turner was born in 1775 in London, England, at a time when the world around him was beginning to change in dramatic ways. His father was a barber and wig maker, and his shop became one of Turner's earliest galleries. The young boy would color his sketches and display them in the window for customers to admire.

From an early age, it was clear that Turner saw the world differently. He was not only interested in drawing objects as they appeared, but in capturing light, atmosphere, and the feeling of a place.

As a child, Turner was sent to live in the countryside for a time, partly because of his mother's declining mental health. These years had a lasting influence on him. He developed a deep love for

nature—rivers, skies, storms, and wide landscapes—and he learned to observe carefully.

Even as a boy, he filled sketchbooks with drawings of what he saw around him. By the age of fourteen, he was accepted into the Royal Academy of Arts in London, a remarkable achievement that marked the beginning of his formal artistic training.

Turner quickly gained recognition for his talent, especially in watercolor. His early works were detailed and precise, often showing buildings, ruins, and landscapes with careful accuracy. But as he matured, something in his art began to shift. He became less concerned with exact detail and more interested in light, color, and movement. He wanted to paint not just what the eye could see, but what the heart could feel.

He traveled widely throughout Britain and Europe, sketching constantly. He studied mountains, seas, and skies in all kinds of weather. Storms especially fascinated him. There is a famous story—whether fully true or slightly exaggerated—that Turner had himself tied to the mast of a ship during a storm so he could experience its full force. Whether or not this happened exactly as told, it reflects something true about his character. Turner was not content to observe from a distance. He wanted to feel the power of nature and then translate that experience into paint.

As the Industrial Revolution unfolded, Turner witnessed a world in transition. Steam engines, factories, and railways began to reshape the landscape. Unlike some artists who ignored these changes, Turner included them in his work. In paintings like *Rain, Steam, and Speed*, a train rushes

across a bridge, surrounded by mist and light. The machine is both impressive and unsettling, almost swallowed by the atmosphere around it.

In *The Fighting Temeraire*, an old sailing ship is pulled by a small steam-powered tugboat, symbolizing the passing of one age into another. Through these works, Turner captured not just the appearance of industrial progress, but its deeper meaning.

In his later years, Turner's paintings became even more luminous and less defined. Shapes dissolved into color and light, and some viewers found his work confusing or unfinished. Yet others recognized that he was doing something entirely new. He was exploring how light itself could be the subject of a painting. In this way, he became a forerunner of later movements like Impressionism, influencing artists who would come after him.

Turner was known to be a private and somewhat eccentric man. He never married, and he guarded much of his personal life carefully. Despite his success, he often lived simply, focusing his energy on his work. When he died in 1851, he left a vast collection of paintings and sketches to the British nation, with the hope that they would be kept together and made available to the public.

Today, Turner is remembered as one of the greatest painters of his time, not because he recorded the world exactly as it was, but because he revealed something deeper. He painted light as if it were alive, storms as if they had a voice, and progress as something both beautiful and complex. His work invites us to look more closely, to feel more deeply, and to consider how the world is changing around us, just as it was in his own day.

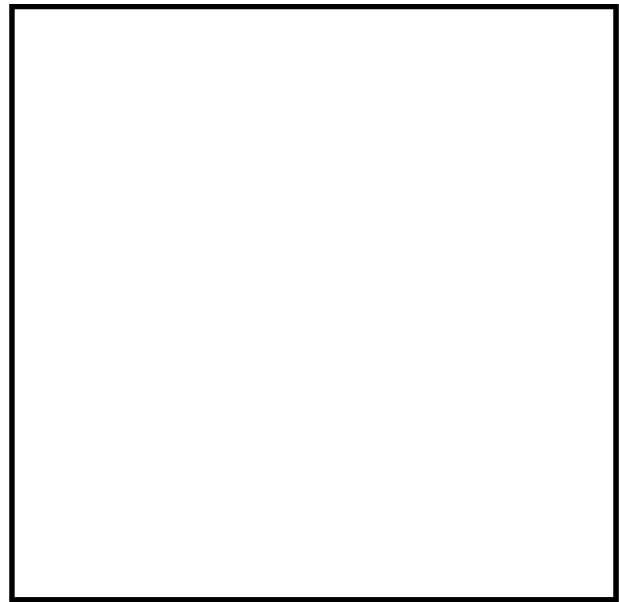
Artist Study

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

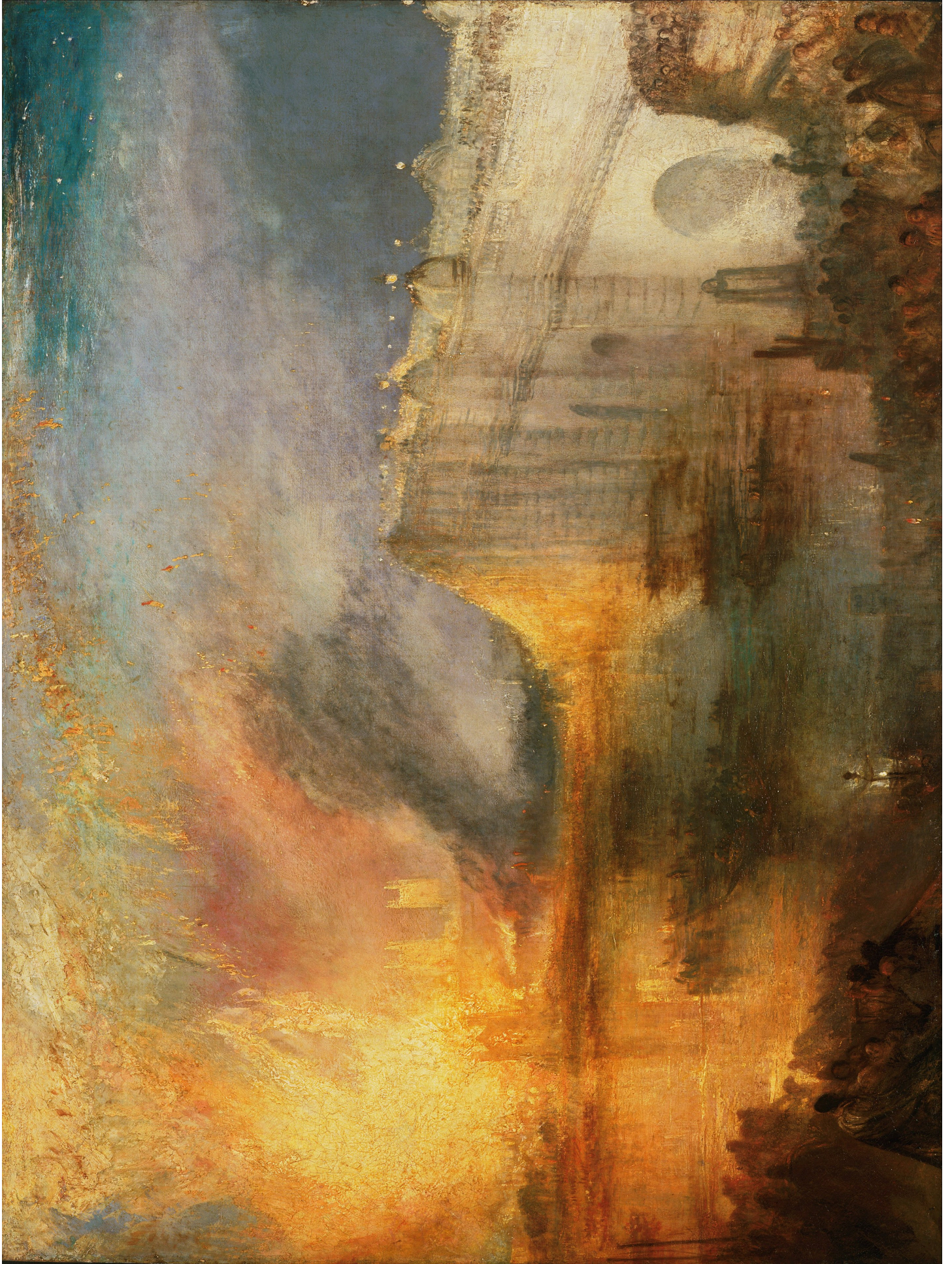
Artist Fun Facts: _____



Art Mediums Used: _____

Famous Artworks: _____

Further Study:



The Burning of the Houses of Lords and Commons, 1835



Keelmen Heaving in Coals by Moonlight, 1835



The Fighting Temeraire, 1839



Rockets and Blue Lights (Close at Hand) to Warn Steamboats of Shoal Water, 1840



Rain, Steam, and Speed, 1844



Norham Castle, Sunrise, 1845

Picture Study

Title: _____

Date Created: _____

Art Mediums Used: _____

Further Study: _____

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

