



## Artist & Composer Study

We have chosen four artists for this session, along with four ocean-themed artworks (one per artist). They are:

- *Storm on the Sea of Galilee* (1633), Rembrandt van Rijn
- *Watson and the Shark* (1778), John Singleton Copley
- *The Great Wave off Kanagawa* (1831), Katsushika Hokusai
- *Waves Breaking Against the Wind* (1840), J.M.W. Turner

We have no featured composer for this session, but have picked out an assortment of ocean-themed classical music (with links to each) to listen to. They are:

- *La Mer* by Claude Debussy
- *The Sea* by Frank Bridge
- *Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage* by Ludwig Van Beethoven
- *A Sea Symphony* by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Artist & Composer Study

# Artist Study

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Place of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

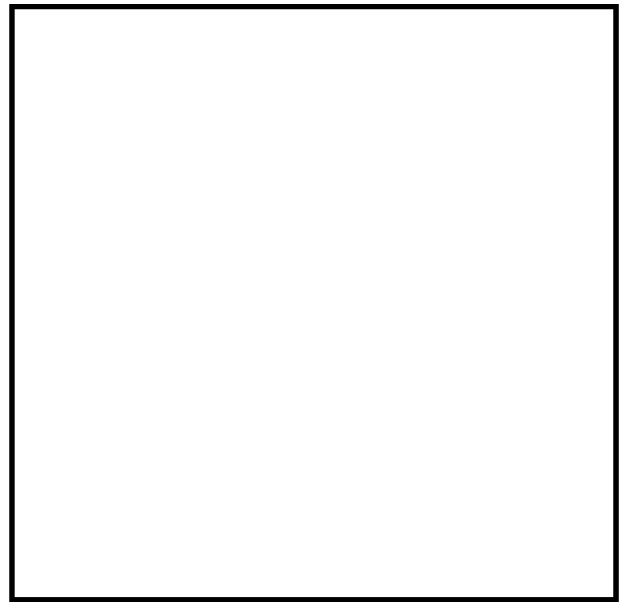
**Artist Fun Facts:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Art Mediums Used:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Famous Artworks:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Further Study:**

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*Storm on the Sea of Galilee, (1633) Rembrandt van Rijn*



# Rembrandt van Rijn

July 15, 1606 – October 4, 1669

Rembrandt van Rijn was born in 1606 in Leiden, where he grew up near his family's windmill, showing artistic talent from an early age.

After studying under respected painters, he opened his own studio by age nineteen and quickly became known for his vivid Biblical scenes and expressive portraits. When he moved to Amsterdam in 1631, his unique style stood out.

Instead of smoothing away imperfections, he painted people as they truly were, using dramatic light and shadow to capture their emotions, personalities, and even movement. His mastery of the Italian technique *chiaroscuro* made his work especially striking.

Rembrandt enjoyed success for many years, creating hundreds of paintings, including *The Storm on the Sea of Galilee*, one of Rembrandt's largest works and his only seascape. Despite his fame, he struggled financially later in life, especially after the deaths of his loved ones. His son Titus and partner Hendrickje worked to support him by selling his art, but Rembrandt died in poverty in 1669. Today, he is celebrated as the greatest Dutch painter in history, remembered for the emotional depth and realism in his work.



Watson and the Shark, (1778) John Singleton Copley



## John Singleton Copley

July 3, 1738 - September 9, 1815

John Singleton Copley was an American artist best known for his beautifully detailed portraits. He grew up in Boston in the early 1700s and learned how to paint as a child, even beginning to work as a portrait painter before his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

His popularity grew over time, and soon he began to make a living off of his work- enough to care not just for himself, but also his mother and brother. Copley became known for the way he captured people's likenesses, depicting the famous and wealthy who commissioned his portraits with vivid accuracy.

His paintings feel honest and alive because he paid such close attention to small details like textures, expressions, and the objects people held close.

As he grew older, Copley traveled to Europe to study the great masters, and this helped him expand beyond portraiture into works depicting historical events. One of his most famous works from this time is *Watson and the Shark*, a dramatic painting that depicts the true story of a young man being rescued from a shark attack. The bold storytelling and emotional energy in this piece reveal how confident and skilled Copley had become as his work evolved through the years, marking his place in history as a great artist.



The Great Wave off Kanagawa, (1831) Katsushika Hokusai



# Katsushika Hokusai

October 31, 1760 - May 10, 1849

Katsushika Hokusai was a Japanese artist best known for his breathtaking woodblock prints, especially *The Great Wave off Kanagawa*.

Born in 1760 in Edo, now modern-day Tokyo, Hokusai grew up surrounded by the lively sights, sounds, and rhythm of city life. He began drawing at a young age and trained under several artists, slowly shaping his own unique style.

Over the years, he became known for his curiosity and willingness to try new techniques, always pushing himself to see the world in fresh and imaginative ways.

Hokusai's work was greatly influential in the art world, and it inspired the styles of many other artists, including Claude Monet and Vincent Van Gogh. *La Mer*, a famous composition by Claude Debussy, is even said to have been inspired by *The Great Wave*, showing the widespread reach of his art. Katsushika Hokusai's prints capture everyday scenes, sweeping landscapes, and the quiet beauty of nature in a way that still feels alive and vivid today.



*Waves Breaking Against the Wind*, (1840) J.M.W. Turner



## J. M. W. Turner

April 23, 1775 - December 19, 1851

J. M. W. Turner, born in London in 1775, was a British painter who fell in love with light, color, and the natural world from an early age. His father, a barber and wig-maker, proudly displayed young Turner's early drawings in his shop window, and customers often bought them on the spot.

He entered the Royal Academy as a teenager, already showing a gift for capturing not just what a scene looked like but how it felt. Even early on, he loved painting the sea, a passion that would later shine in works like *Waves Breaking Against the Wind*, where you can almost hear the roar of the water and feel the power of the storm.

As Turner matured, his style became even more atmospheric and expressive. He traveled widely, filling sketchbooks with landscapes, coastlines, ships at sea, and bustling cities, always chasing interesting light or changing weather. Some people of his time thought his paintings were too unusual (one critic even went so far as to call his paintings "blots,") but today he's remembered as a great artist who helped shape art as we know it today.

# Picture Study

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Created: \_\_\_\_\_

Art Mediums Used: \_\_\_\_\_

Further Study: \_\_\_\_\_

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

