



Artist & Composer Study

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

- *Rainy Day in Boston*
- *Snowstorm, Madison Square*
- *Late Afternoon, New York, Winter*
- *The Victorian Chair*

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

- Étude No. 11 in A minor, 'Winter Wind'
- Fantaisie Impromptu Op. 66
- Waltz in A minor B150
- Nocturne in E flat major, Op. 9 No. 2

Artist & Composer Study



Childe Hassam

October 17, 1859 – August 27, 1935

Frederick Childe (pronounced "child") Hassam was born on October 17, 1859, in Boston, Massachusetts. The eldest of three children, he grew up in a wealthy and cultured home. His father, Frederick Addison Hassam, was a successful businessman with strong artistic interests; his mother, Rosa Maria Coombs Phelps, was a talented amateur painter.

From an early age, Hassam showed a talent for art, and his parents encouraged him to pursue it. He began taking classes at the Massachusetts Normal Art School when he was sixteen. As a teenager, he painted portraits and landscapes in a Realist style.

In 1879, he moved to Paris to study art, and while there he was exposed to the work of the Impressionists. Hassam was particularly struck by the work of Claude Monet, and his own work began to reflect Monet's influence.

He returned to the United States in 1882 and first gained recognition for his work in 1884, when he exhibited his painting "New England Landscape" at the Boston Art Club. The same year, he married Kathleen Maude Doane, with whom he would eventually have two children.

The couple moved to Paris in 1886 so that Childe could study figure drawing and painting at the prestigious Académie Julian. There he became involved in the artistic community, met many influential artists and intellectuals, and was exposed to new styles of art. They lived and traveled throughout Europe for several more years, eventually settling back in New York City in 1897.

Hassam took part in the secession of Impressionists from the Society of American Artists, forming a new society with American Impressionist painters known as "The Ten." He became known for his paintings of the New England coastline, but also painted other subjects, including urban scenes and portraits, quickly establishing himself as a leading figure in the American art scene.

During World War I, Hassam created a series of patriotic paintings known as the "flag paintings." These works were intended to boost morale and raise money for the war effort. In 1917, he was awarded the American Academy of Arts and Letters Gold Medal, and in 1918 he was elected to the National Academy of Design. That same year he was also appointed as an official war artist by the United States government.

Childe Hassam continued to paint until his death in 1935, at the age of 76. Today he is considered one of the foremost American Impressionist painters.

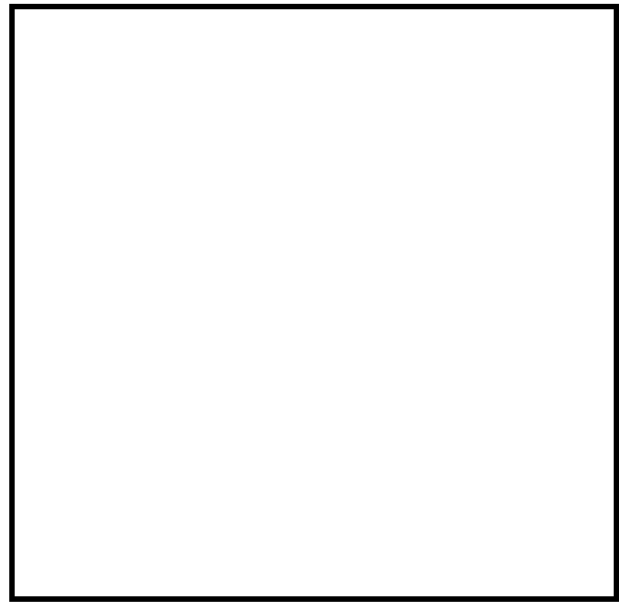
Artist Study

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Artist Fun Facts: _____



Art Mediums Used: _____

Famous Artworks: _____

Further Study:



Rainy Day in Boston, 1885



Snowstorm, Madison Square, 1890



Late Afternoon, New York, Winter, 1900



The Victorian Chair, 1906

Picture Study

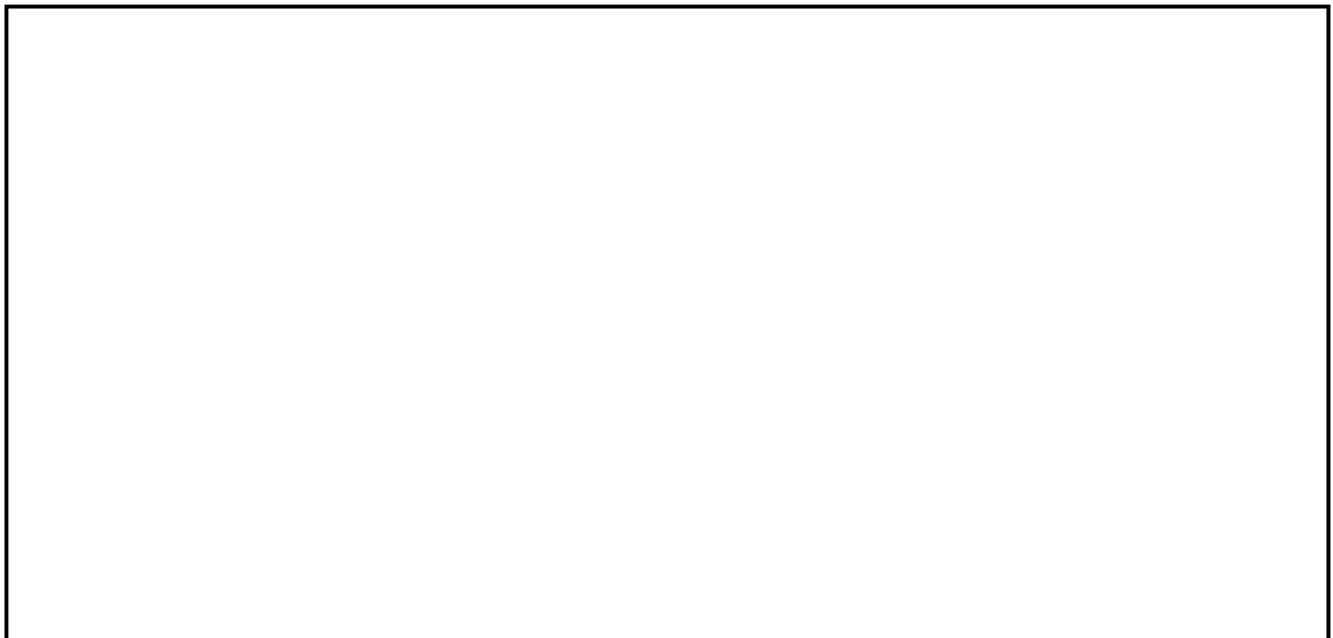
Title: _____

Date Created: _____

Art Mediums Used: _____

Further Study: _____

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





Frédéric Chopin

March 1, 1810 – October 17, 1849

Frédéric François Chopin was a Polish composer and piano virtuoso. He composed mainly piano solo pieces during the Romantic Era of music and was considered to be such a remarkable talent that there was no equal in his generation.

Fryderyk Franciszek Chopin was born in the Duchy of Warsaw to a French father who had adopted Poland as his homeland. He insisted on speaking Polish in the household.

Even as a child Chopin was often ill and of a small personage. His infirmities did not challenge his musical abilities, however. It was evident that he was a child prodigy and at the age of 7, he began playing public concerts. He was composing his first pieces in 1817, though his earliest surviving manuscript is from 1821 and was dedicated to his first piano tutor.

Chopin attended the Warsaw Lyceum from 1823 to 1826 and studied organ, music theory, composition, and figured bass. He continued composing and playing salons. There he met some of the friends that would follow him to Paris.

Chopin left Poland barely a month before the Polish-Russian War broke out. He wanted to go to Italy, but the political unrest there forced him to go to Paris instead. He received French citizenship in 1835 but always considered himself to be a Pole.

Chopin's contemporaries of whom he was friends and occasionally performed with included other musical greats of the era like Franz Liszt, Hector Berlioz, and Felix Mendelssohn. They would perform arrangements together and assist each other with compositions.

By 1842, Chopin's health began to decline and so did the number of compositions he was able to create. By 1848, he was having financial difficulty and went to London to perform with the help of a patron, Julia Stirling. In June 1849 his sister Ludwika came to Paris with her husband and daughter, and in September, supported by a loan from Jane Stirling, he took an apartment at Place Vendôme 12.

On October 17, after midnight, the physician leaned over him and asked whether he was suffering greatly. "No longer", he replied. He died a few minutes before two o'clock in the morning.

The funeral, held at the Church of the Madeleine in Paris, was delayed almost two weeks. Entrance was restricted to ticket holders because many people were expected to attend. Over 3,000 people arrived without invitations from as far as London, Berlin, and Vienna, but were turned away.