

Art Focus: Japanese art - Hokusai	Year Group: 6	Spring Term 2
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Key Knowledge:

Katsushika Hokusai was a Japanese artist and Ukiyo-e printmaker and painter of the Edo period. He was born in Tokyo around 1760 and began painting at the age of six.

As was the custom at the time, Hokusai changed his name over 30 times during his life.

Most of Hokusai's most important and best work was produced after the age of 60. His largest work was a set of 4000 sketches published in 1814.

He created woodblocks of many different subjects, including bridges, waterfalls, birds and flowers.

Despite his success, he lived simply and was very poor. He was only truly recognised after his death.

He died in 1849 and was buried in Tokyo.

The cover art of the UK edition of Kensuke's Kingdom was inspired by his artwork.



Media and techniques:

Finger painting – cherry blossom.

Pencil drawing

Use of watercolours

Printing using polystyrene tiles

Key Vocabulary:

Print making – the art of making pictures of designs by printing them from specially-prepared plates of blocks.

Edo period – refers to a period in Japanese history where Japan was governed by the Edo Shogunate government.

Tokyo – capital city of Japan.

Big questions:

How does this piece of artwork make you feel?

Why do you think Hokusai chose to create this piece of art?

What was he thinking when he painted this piece?

How and why do you think Hokusai inspired others?

Many of Hokusai's prints feature Mount Fuji, why do you think this is?

What elements of Japan inspired Hokusai?

Example art:



The Wave. Hokusai between 1830-1833.



Mount Fuji seen through Cherry Blossom. Hokusai 1804-1813