

### 1. Two Great Artists

This week marks the birthday of two famous artists who happen to have been born about 250 years apart. Diego Velázquez, the Spanish court painter (whose birthday we're celebrating on the 6<sup>th</sup> June, although he was actually baptized on that date in 1599, not born) and Paul Gauguin, the post-impressionist (who was born on the 7<sup>th</sup> June, 1848).

#### Level

Upper Intermediate upwards

#### How to use the lesson

If your students are likely to know either or both of these artists, you may wish to give your students a copy of Worksheet A first and ask them to predict the answers before reading the biographies on Worksheet B. If you expect them not to know anything about the artists it would be best to give them the biographies (and a tight time limit) and ask them to find out who each statement on Worksheet A applies to. The Teacher's Notes are for the latter suggestion.

1. Divide your class into pairs. Tell your students they are going to work with their partner to identify who a group of statements refer to. Give the top part of Worksheet B to Student A and the bottom part of Worksheet B to Student B.

2. Give students four minutes to read their biography, after which time they should cover their biography. Give each pair one copy of Worksheet A between them and ask them to get together with their partner to write a name (Velázquez or Gauguin) next to each statement. If there are any 'unclaimed' statements allow students to check the answers with their texts.

3. Check answers in open class.

#### Answers

1. Gauguin 2. Gauguin 3. Velázquez 4. Velázquez 5. Velázquez 6. Gauguin  
7. Gauguin 8. Velázquez 9. Gauguin 10. Gauguin 11. Velázquez 12. Gauguin  
13. Gauguin 14. Velázquez 15. Velázquez 16. Velázquez

#### Follow up

Either focusing on these two artists or opening it out to other artists, students could do a number of things, depending on their level.

An FCE class could select a picture by each artist and compare and contrast them. Students could also choose an artist and do a project on him or her to display in class.

Alternatively, ask your students to look through books or on the Internet to find a picture they particularly like. Ask them to prepare a short presentation, explaining what they like about it.

## 2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://sunsite.icm.edu.pl/cjackson/velazque/>

lots of Velázquez pictures here

<http://www.mala.bc.ca/~mcneil/velaz.htm>

quite a good link for Velázquez

<http://www.theartgallery.com.au/ArtEducation/greatartists/>

Artists from Da Vinci to Picasso (but no Gauguin)

<http://www.mcs.csuhayward.edu/~malek/Velazquez.html>

a gallery of selected Velázquez pictures

[http://art.koti.com.pl/gauguin/gauguin\\_en.html](http://art.koti.com.pl/gauguin/gauguin_en.html)

a gallery of selected Gauguin pictures