

# Information Gap Turner

## COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECT

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We support a network of teaching professionals to develop and disseminate accessible talk-for-learning activities in all subject areas and for all ages.

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## BRIEF SUMMARY OF BASIC PRINCIPLES BEHIND OUR TEACHING ACTIVITIES:

The project is a teacher network, and a non-profit making educational trust. Our main aim is to develop and disseminate classroom tested examples of effective group strategies that promote talk across all phases and subjects. We hope they will inspire you to develop and use similar strategies in other topics and curriculum areas. We want to encourage you to change them and adapt them to your classroom and students. We run teacher workshops, swapshops and conferences throughout the European Union. The project posts online many activities in all subject areas. An online newsletter is also updated regularly.

\*These activities are influenced by current thinking about the role of language in learning. They are designed to help children learn through talk and active learning in small groups. They work best in non selective classes where children in need of language or learning support are integrated. They are well suited for the development of oracy. They provide teachers opportunities for assessment of talk.

\*They support differentiation by placing a high value on what children can offer to each other on a particular topic, and also give children the chance to respect each other's views and formulate shared opinions which they can disseminate to peers. By helping them to take ideas and abstract concepts, discuss, paraphrase and move them about physically, they help to develop thinking skills.

\*They give children the opportunity to participate in their own words and language in their own time without pressure. Many activities can be tried out in pupils' first languages and afterwards in English. A growing number of activities are available in more than one language, not translated, but mixed, so that you may need more than one language to complete the activity.

\*They encourage study skills in context, and should therefore be used with a range of appropriate information books which are preferably within reach in the classroom.

\*They are generally adaptable over a wide age range because children can bring their own knowledge to an activity and refer to books at an appropriate level. The activities work like catalysts.

\*All project activities were planned and developed by teachers working together, and the main reason they are disseminated is to encourage teachers to work more effectively with each other inside and outside the classroom. They have made it possible for mainstream and language and learning support teachers to share an equal role in curriculum delivery. They should be adapted to local conditions. In order to help us keep pace with curriculum changes, please send any new or revised activities back to the project, so that we can add them to our lists of materials.

When was he born?

What did his initials stand for?

Where was he born?

J

M

W

What job did his father do?

How did Turner make money when he was a child?

What sad event happened when he was 8 ?

Where did he stay when his mother was ill?

What did he do in each place?

How old was he when he began studying at the Royal Academy?

B

M

O

What kind of art did he want to do at first?

What was his first water colour accepted by the Academy?

What was his first oil painting shown at the Royal Academy?

Where things did he paint when he began travelling in Britain?

Where in Europe did he study?

Where did he travel and paint in Europe?

What subjects particularly interested him?

Which group of artists were influenced by his work?

Were his paintings popular?

What good things did people say?

What bad things did people say?

When did he die?

Where is he buried?

What did he leave to the nation?

How is his memory honoured today?

What did he want to happen to this gift?

## "The Painter of Light "- Turner

Turner was one of the greatest English artists. He produced thousands of pictures. 19,000 watercolours and 300 oil paintings were left to the country when he died. His work had a great influence on the Impressionists as he tried to capture the effects of light using paint and watercolours, which they went on to explore further.

J. M. W. Turner was born in London in 1775. His father was a barber and wig maker. His name was William and his son shared his name. When Turner was 10 his mother became very ill and Turner was sent to stay with his uncle, Joseph Marshall, in Brentford, just outside London. Here he did lots of watercolour pictures of the landscape. When he returned to home he sold his drawings in his father's shop. His father wanted him to become a painter.

Turner studied with architects as he wanted to design buildings but Thomas Hardwick persuaded him to study painting instead. He began studying at the Royal Academy when he was only 15. In 1792 he went on his first sketching tour. He travelled all over England drawing buildings, canals and bridges. In 1794 he started to paint the sea.

In 1796 his oil painting "Fishermen at Sea" was shown at the Academy and all the critics thought it was brilliant. They liked the way he tried to show the moonlight on the sea. After this he became very famous.

**Fishermen At Sea 1796**



He began to spend his time travelling and sketching, or doing water colours, then in the winter he would stay in his studio and paint. He had lots of paintings exhibited at the Royal Academy.

In 1803 he became even more interested in showing light. This meant his paintings became more impressionistic, (showing the impression rather than the detail). Some people did not like this. One critic said they were "pictures of nothing".

He died in Chelsea in 1851 and is buried in St Paul's Cathedral.

## "The Painter of Light "- Turner

Turner was one of the greatest English artists. He left thousands of pictures to the country when he died, which he wanted displayed all together in a special gallery. His work influenced Monet and other Impressionists who went on to explore further ways of capturing the effects of light using paint and watercolours.

J. M. W. Turner was born on April 23rd 1775. His father had a shop in Covent garden, London. His long name was the same as his uncle Joseph Mal-lord William Marshall. His uncle was very important to his life as whenever his mother was ill he would go and stay with him. When he was 11 he stayed with his uncle in Margate, Kent and did lots of drawings of buildings and churches.

In 1790 his water colour painting  
"A View of the Archbishop's  
Palace at Lambeth "  
was exhibited at the  
Royal Academy.

Joseph was only 14.



He became a student at the Royal Academy when he was only 15 and the register showed he attended many classes, studying sculpture and architecture, as well as drawing and painting. In 1794 he became fascinated with the sea. He studied at the Louvre in Paris in 1802 and this had a big effect on his painting.

Over the next few years he travelled all over Europe, particularly France, Switzerland and Italy. He did many paintings in Venice, which are very popular.

He loved clouds and was fascinated by the weather. He was described by John Ruskin as a painter who could "truthfully measure the moods of Nature."

When he died he left money to support decaying artists, but it was not used in this way. The Turner medal is given out sometimes, to an outstanding student at the Royal Academy. The money Turner left pays for this.



## "The Painter of Light "- Turner

Turner was one of the greatest English artists, not everyone appreciated his talent when he was alive. Later in his career when he was really concentrating on capturing the effects of light using paint and watercolours, his art was described as "fantastic puzzles" and "indistinct".

Joseph Turner was born in London. He had a younger sister Mary who died in 1783 when she was only 4. His mother suffered from frequent illness and eventually died in Bedlam, the London lunatic asylum. His uncle was very important as he would often go and stay with him. When he was 12 he stayed with his uncle in Oxford. Here he completed a whole sketch book which still exists.

His father wanted him to be an artist and encouraged him. When Turner was a famous painter his father helped in his studio. His early work shows lots of houses, churches and buildings. He then became fascinated by the sea. Throughout these interests he became more and more interested in light.

Turner was a popular painter early in his career. This meant he could afford to concentrate on painting the things he liked. In 1844 the railways were being built and Turner loved to paint the engines appearing through the steam and smoke. Some of his most famous pictures are from this time.

Later in his career he did not like to sell his pictures, which is why he was able to leave so many to the country when he died in 1851. It was his wish that his pictures be shown together as a collection and stay in one place. The Tate Gallery in London has most of his collection, and the Clore gallery was built in 1987 to hold his work. It is not used as he wished and some pictures are in the National Gallery.

Turner is still remembered; there is a stained glass window in St Mary's Church Battersea. There are statues representing him at St Paul's Cathedral, Royal Academy of Arts and Victoria & Albert Museum. An annual art prize is named after him.

In 2005, Turner's  
"The Fighting Temeraire"  
was voted Britain's  
"greatest painting"  
in a public vote.

