Pablo Picasso

Pablo Picasso was an artist who is most famous for inventing new and very different ways to paint.

Picasso was born on October 25, 1881, in Malaga, Spain. His father was also an artist. When he was young, Picasso studied art with his father and at art schools in Malaga and then in Barcelona. In 1897, he went to the Royal Academy in Madrid, but left and went home to Barcelona.

In Barcelona, he became part of a group of artists and writers. Picasso began to travel to Paris in 1900 to meet and work with other young artists. After 1904, he lived in France most of the time.

During his long life, Picasso painted in many different ways. From 1901 to 1904, he did most of his paintings in blue. This is called his Blue Period. From 1904 to 1906, he used mostly red and pink, which is called his Pink Period.

In 1907, he invented a new kind of painting called cubism. People and objects were not painted as they are seen in real life. Instead, they were painted as geometrical forms, such as cubes. At first, most people did not like this new type of painting, but it slowly became more popular. In 1937, Picasso painted Guernica, one of his most famous cubist paintings. It shows his view of the death and destruction caused when Spanish civilians were bombed during the Spanish Civil War. The painting is now considered to be a masterpiece.

Picasso worked on many other new types of paintings, but he was also a sculptor and a designer. In 1917, he designed the set and the costumes for a ballet. In the 1940s, he wrote a play and two books of poetry.

Picasso was very poor when he was a young artist, but he became wealthy and very famous. He was married twice and had four children. He died at age 91 in Antibes, France, on April 8, 1973.

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COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

A. True or False. Read the statements below. If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence. If it is false, write F. If it is false, correct the information.

1. Picasso was born in France and died in Spain. _____
2. Picasso made a lot of money when he was young. _____
3. Picasso created new styles of art. _____
4. Guernica was painted during his Blue Period. _____
5. The style of cubism became popular immediately. _____

B. Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner. Then write the answers in complete sentences.

1. As an artist, what is Picasso most famous for? _____

_____

2. Where did he study art? _____

_____

3. Why did he begin to spend a lot of time in France? _____

_____

4. Explain the style of painting called cubism. _____

_____

5. What were two of his earlier styles of painting? _____

_____

6. What does his painting Guernica represent? _____

_____

7. Besides painting, what other forms of artistic expression did he use? _____

_____

8. Did Picasso remain poor throughout his life? _____

_____

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