

11/01/20

T: Who is Banksy?



Before we start the lesson, think about...

What is art?

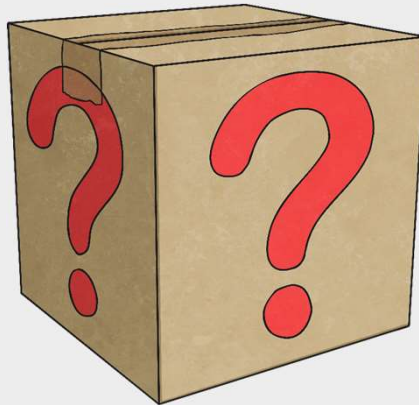
Where do we find/see art?

Create a mind-map about what you already know about the artist Banksy.

Who Is Banksy?

The simple answer is: no one really knows.

Banksy is an anonymous graffiti artist. That means he keeps his identity hidden. He will not do media interviews, he won't release his real name, and he will not allow photos or copies of his artwork to be made and sold.



Banksy's Beginnings

Banksy is originally from Bristol, England. He was part of the Bristol underground art scene, and he was inspired by the graffiti artist called 3D.



Banksy first started working as a freehand graffiti artist in 1990 and continued until 1994. He met a photographer called Steve Lazarides, who began selling his art for him. Steve then became Banksy's agent, which means he arranged exhibitions.

Voicing His Opinion

Banksy uses his art to give his opinion on events that are happening in the world. He is known as a political activist. The graffiti he paints shows what he thinks. The most common themes are his views on greed, poverty, despair, the obsession with celebrities, the government and war.



London, 2011



Fun facts about Banksy

Here are some facts about Banksy, the English street artist.

- Banksy has managed to keep his true identity a secret. Many people think he is a man called Robert Gunningham.
- He started off as a freehand graffiti artist.
- He began to use stencils and by 2000 most of his work was produced by stenciling.
- His work often contains a political message (often anti-war or anti-establishment) and he often incorporates images of rats, apes, soldiers, children and policemen.
- Banksy has displayed his work in several exhibitions.
- Christina Aguilera bought two Banksy prints in 2006 for £25,000. His larger works, such as his *Slave Labour* mural are thought to be worth more than £400,000.
- His work can be found in towns and cities all over the world, from Bristol and London in the UK, to San Francisco, Melbourne, New Orleans and the Israeli West Bank.
- Banksy has published a book of his work, *Wall and Piece*, and he has directed the documentary, *Exit Through the Gift Shop*.
- Many people have been critical of Banksy's work, viewing it as vandalism and not art.

Here are some examples of Banksy's graffiti.

What do you think the message of these might be?

Which one do you like the most? Why?



Using the information in this PowerPoint and the following links, create a fact file about Banksy and his street art.

- <https://blog.artsper.com/en/a-closer-look/10-facts-know-banksy/>
- <https://wiki.kidzsearch.com/wiki/Banksy>
- <https://kids.kiddle.co/Banksy>

Remember when you have finished your work, you can take a picture and send it to year6@sfxcps.co.uk to share with Miss Wood 😊.