

Art



# THE HISTORY OF GRAFFITI

Year 34 urban pioneers  
Miss Woodlins

## What does it mean?

The word “graffiti” is Italian in nature and is derived from the word “graffito,” which translates to “a scratch” since the original graffiti was actually scratched into a surface and not painted on.

But the word is ultimately derived from the Greek word “graphein,” which means to draw, write or scratch.

## The first markings

Even though the first time it was referenced was in 1851, graffiti actually stems all the way back to the earliest era of humans during the Paleolithic, or “Old Stone Age,”.

Humans first made their homes in caves and drew on the cave walls – the first time humans ever expressed themselves artistically even though they were simple drawings of animals and abstract shapes.

Some form of graffiti has been found etched onto the surfaces of several places on Earth. From the runestones of the Vikings in Scandinavia to ancient Mayan sites, graffiti has been a medium for people to jot down their thoughts and ideas or to simply declare their presence to the world.





# GRAFFITI IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Of course, over time, graffiti has evolved and it really made an impact on society and culture in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Even with modern technology enhancements, people are still compelled to leave their mark anywhere they can.



## THE BERLIN WALL

Constructed in 1961, the Berlin Wall is a perfect example of modern graffiti. Built as a way to divide West Berlin from the Communist East Berlin, the wall divided the city until 1989 when political liberations would sweep across Germany, eventually coming down in a historical way.

Although people were prohibited from approaching the wall on the east side, those on the west were free to approach the wall and they not only came up to it, but adorned it with lots of street art and graffiti. To this day, it's alive with colorful illustrations of the sentiments of **peace and love**.



## GRAFFITI IN THE 1980S IN NYC

New York is considered the birth place for modern graffiti and the city has birthed several famous graffiti artists over the years. But the height of this movement was in the 1980s, with the rise of notable figures like **Jean-Michel Basquiat, Keith Haring and Futura 2000**.

All three have very different styles and expressions, but emerged from the same environment and continue to inspire other creativity across the world.







# KEITH HARING

As a friend of Basquiat, he was a prominent graffiti artist in the 1980s and created one of the most recognizable personal iconographies in art history – his little men and women that carried a positive message for LGBT activism.



# Futura 2000

One of the graffiti legends of this time was Futura 2000, who started tagging on subway cars. He's best known for his angular, abstract style. His tagging is recognizable as a separate, non-lettered style of the art, which is still used today.



# NEW TECHNIQUES

By the 1990s, graffiti was everywhere and became its own art form. Many of the originators were growing up and expanding their talents, while a new crop of kids started to work on their writings.

Custom-made spray paint came to market and this allowed street artists to do more intricate paintings, thus increasing the quality of these works of art.

It was during this time that new techniques came about, with artists now using stickers and stencils to apply their art, which allowed them to create elaborate drawings that could easily be prepared in advance and then applied quickly, which was ultra important to avoid getting caught by officials.





# BANKSY


**Banksy** is a [British](#) street and graffiti [artist](#). He likes to remain [anonymous](#) and not let people know his true identity. He often draws in high visibility public places such as on [buildings](#) or [train stations](#). His paintings are often about [politics](#), [war](#) and other important topics.

His [satirical street art](#) and mind-hurting pictures combine dark [humour](#) with [graffiti](#). The graffiti is done with a [stencilling](#) technique. Such works have been done on streets, walls, and bridges of cities throughout the world.

Banksy's work started in the [Bristol](#) underground scene, which had [collaborations](#) between artists and musicians. According to graphic designer Tristan Manco, Banksy "was born in 1974 and raised in Bristol, England. The son of a photocopier technician, he trained as a butcher but became involved in graffiti during the great Bristol aerosol boom of the late 1980s".





Date	
Subject/s	Art
Learning Objective 	To understand the history of a style of art.
Look at the pictures below, pick two pictures and fill in the sheet to say what you like about the pieces and what you do not like about them.	



Balloon girl – Banksy  
London 2002



Untitled (skull) – Jean Michael Basquiat  
New York City 1981



We the youth, Keith Haring  
Philadelphia USA, 1987



Under Metropolis, Futura 2000,  
1983

The name of the piece is \_\_\_\_\_

I like this piece because ...

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I don't like this piece because ...

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The name of the piece is \_\_\_\_\_

I like this piece because ...

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I don't like this piece because ...

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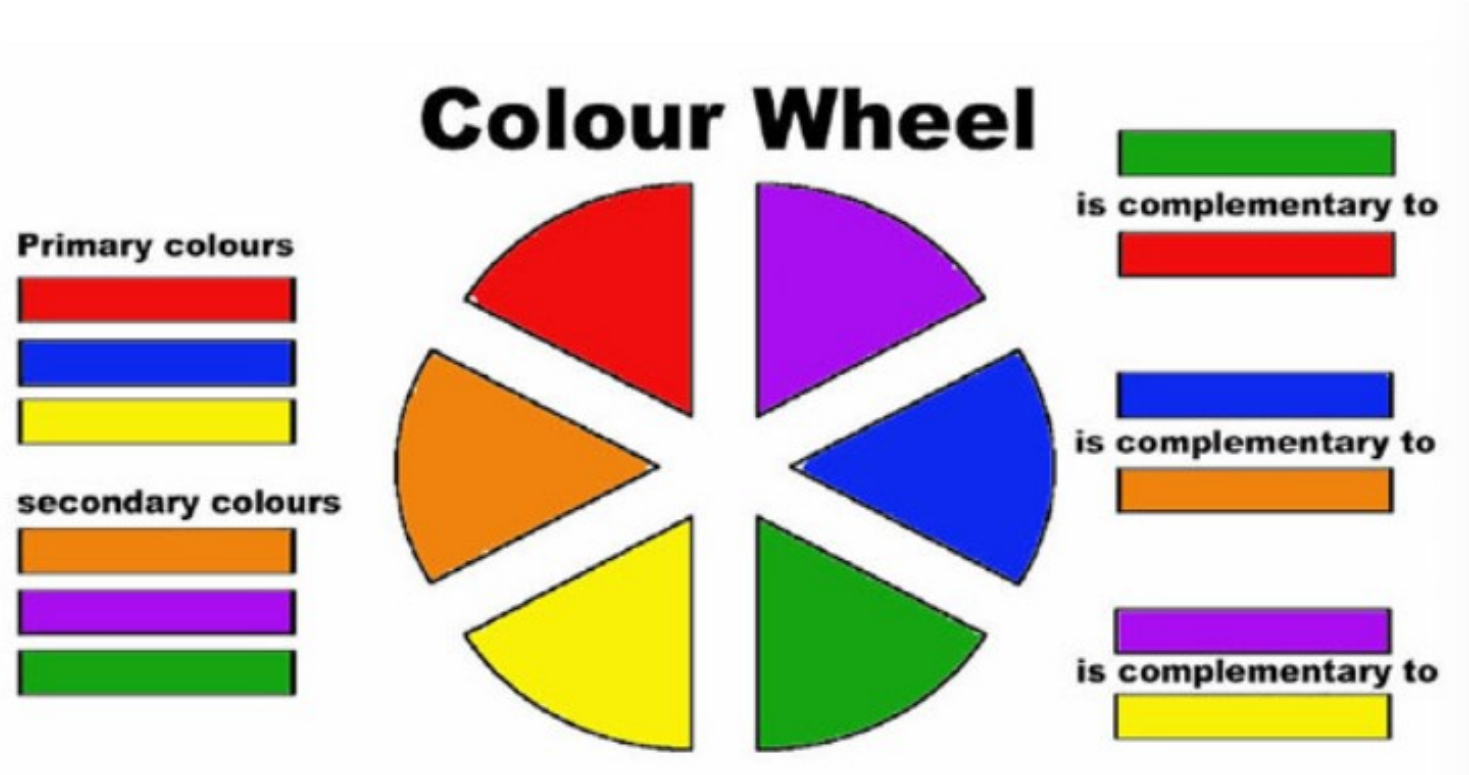
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Date	
Subject/s	Art
Learning Objective  	To experiment with resource and technique.

Watch the video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4jnwDCR41Pw>  
Look at the colour wheel below, complete the colour wheel on the next page.

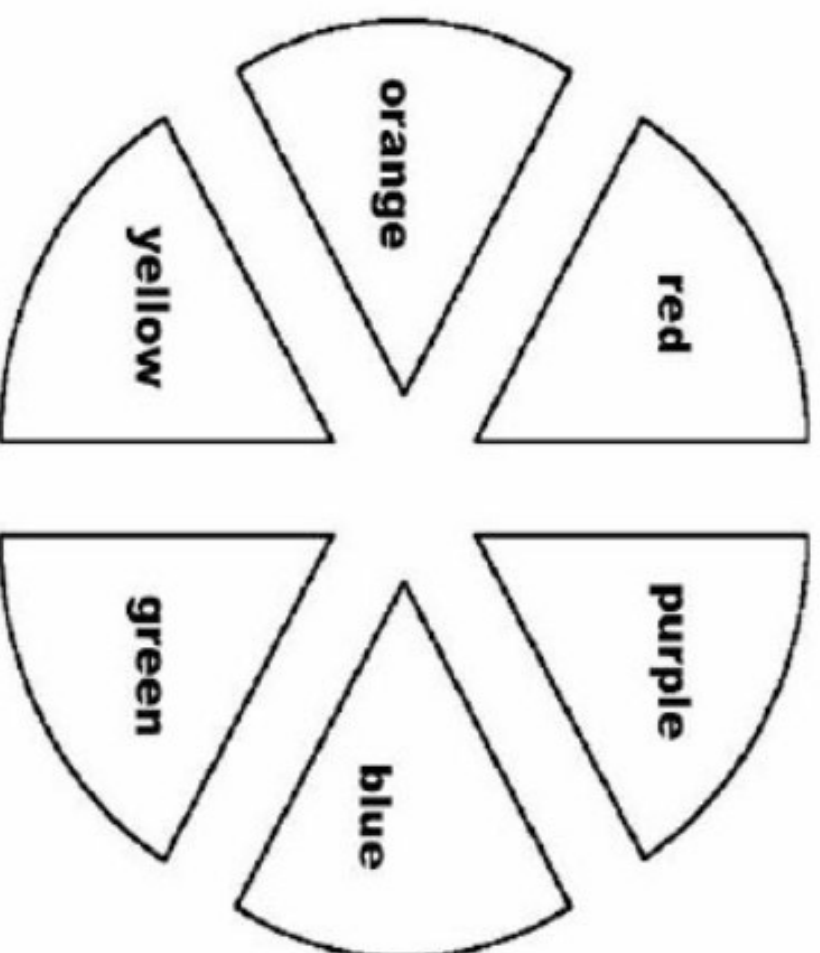




# Colour Wheel

**Primary colours**

**Secondary colours**





is complementary to

is complementary to

is complementary to



Below create a piece of art work in graffiti style!

Date:	
Subject	Art
Learning Objective  	To plan a piece of work.

Name of my artwork: \_\_\_\_\_

Sketch/draft of my artwork:

Colours I will use:




What I like about my artwork:

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Is there anything you would change about your art work?

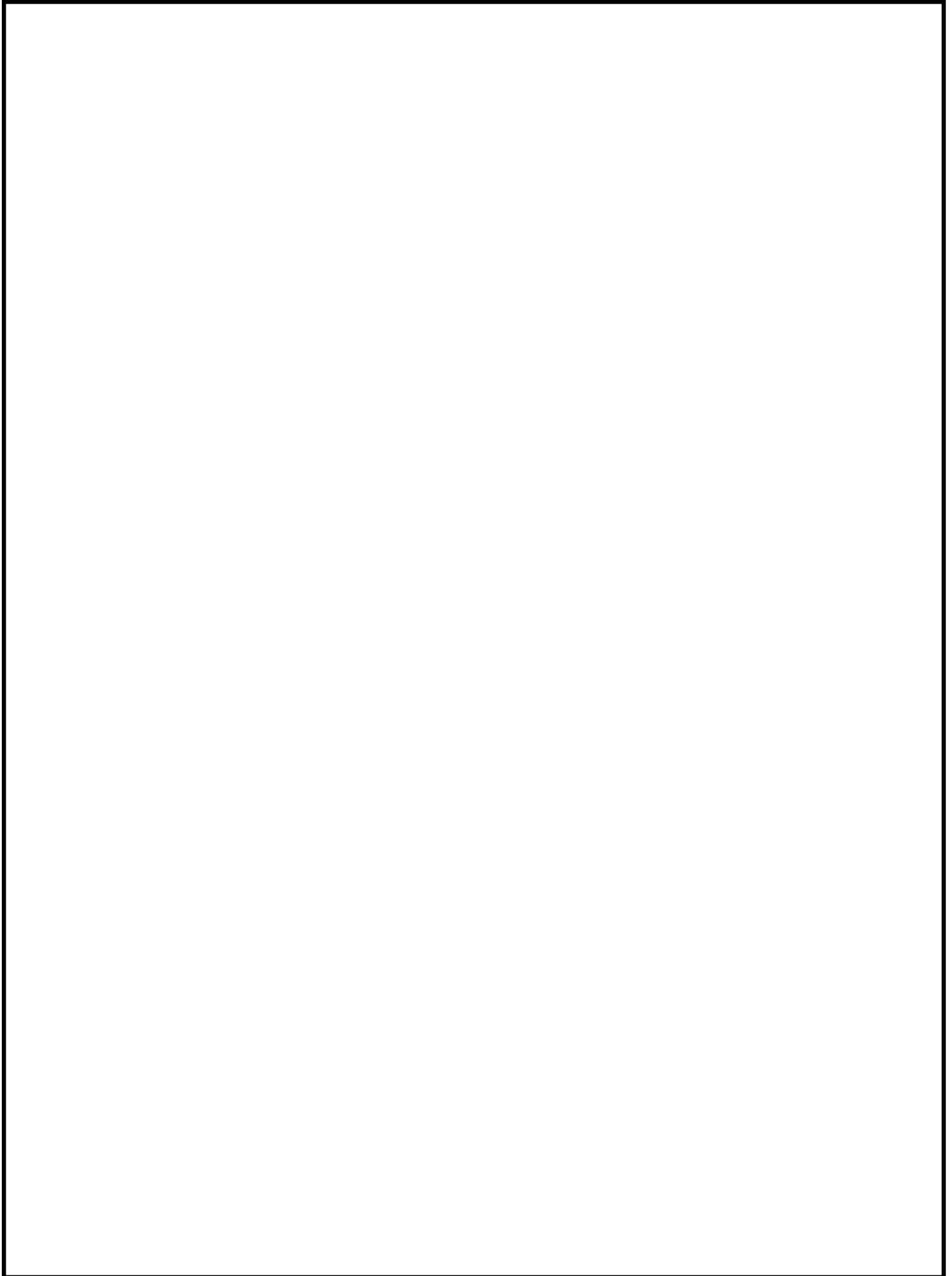
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*In the box below drawn your final piece of graffiti art work!*

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a final piece of graffiti art. The box is oriented vertically and occupies most of the page below the instruction text.



## My art self-evaluation:

What did you create?

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What do you like about your final piece?

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What would you change if you could create this piece again?

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How is your work similar to the work of **Banksy** or **Jean Michael Basquiat**?

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