



Year Five Knowledge Organiser: Portraits - How has portraiture changed over time, considering the use of materials?

National Curriculum Specification

Pupils should be taught:

- Perspective, movement & colour in photography to create mood
- Use a variety of techniques to add interesting effects (e.g. reflections, shadows & direction of sunlight)

Key Vocabulary

Portrait	A painting of a person
Mood	The feeling expressed in the painting. How does it make you feel?
Cubism	Bringing different objects and figures together in the same picture so the painting appears fragmented. 
Abstract portrait	A portrait of a person but not within reality – it represented the artist's viewpoint on other issues. 

Portraiture is a very old art form going back at least to ancient Egypt, where it flourished from about 5,000 years ago. Before the invention of photography, a painted, sculpted, or drawn portrait was the only way to record the appearance of someone.

But portraits have always been more than just a record. They have been used to show the power, importance, virtue, beauty, wealth, taste, learning or other qualities of the sitter. Portraits have almost always been flattering.

Key facts

What has been claimed as the world's oldest known portrait (called Cave Face) was found in 2006 in the Vilhonneur grotto near Angoulême (West of France) and is thought to be 27,000 years old.

One of the best-known portraits in the Western world is **Leonardo da Vinci's** (Italian artist) painting titled *Mona Lisa*, which is a painting of Lisa del Giocondo displayed in **the Louvre in Paris**.

Pablo Picasso was a **Spanish** painter, sculptor, printmaker, ceramicist and stage designer considered one of the greatest and most influential artists of the 20th century. Picasso is credited, along with Georges Braque, with the creation of Cubism. Picasso was a truly prolific artist. His artwork can be found at dozens of institutions in Europe and beyond; including the **Tate Modern in London** and the **Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York**.

When the artist creates a portrait of him- or herself, it is called a *self-portrait*.



The Mona Lisa



Picasso Self Portrait