

Georgia O'Keeffe

Georgia O'Keeffe was born in 1887 in Wisconsin, USA. She was one of seven children and grew up on a dairy farm.

She began school and soon realised that she didn't like going there. After school she had private art lessons which she loved and it was these lessons which inspired her to become an artist.

Later, Georgia and her family moved to Virginia. She started at high school and it was here that her drawings were first noticed and admired. After high school, O'Keeffe went to study at the Art Institute of Chicago but after only one year she became very sick and had to stop her studies. It was a year before O'Keeffe felt better and she decided to continue her studies in New York instead. During her studies she learned to paint in many different styles before developing her own style.

When O'Keeffe had finished school, she taught art and experimented with abstract art. She created paintings based on the things she saw in nature.

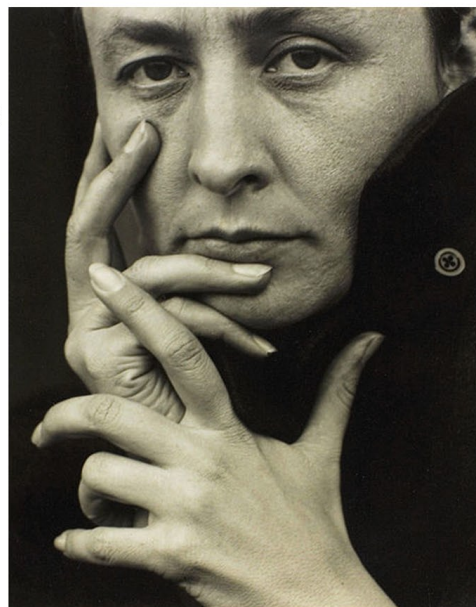
Alfred Stieglitz, a photographer, got hold of some of Georgia's paintings and showed them in his gallery without her knowledge. At first O'Keeffe was upset, but she forgave him because he helped to make her work famous.

A few years later O'Keeffe became ill again and whilst she recovered, Stieglitz and O'Keeffe wrote letters to each other. Eventually, the two fell in love, got married and bought a house on a lake where they lived in the summer time. O'Keeffe loved it there because she had an art studio and was inspired to paint by her natural surroundings. It was here that she created the paintings that she is best known for – the flowers.

She painted close-ups of flowers in bright, bold colours on huge canvases, nobody had ever done this before. From then on, O'Keeffe always painted subjects using strong, vibrant colours.

Later in her life, Georgia went on a trip to New Mexico and loved it so much that she moved there. She painted lots of paintings of the landscape around her and especially loved painting pictures of animal skulls.

O'Keeffe painted right up until she lost her eyesight. She died on March 6th 1986 at the grand age of 98. She chose to have her ashes scattered on top of a mountain in New Mexico so that she became part of the landscape that she so loved.



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Answer the questions in full sentences

1. Where was she born?
2. What did she do after school?
3. Why did Georgia have to stop studying for a while?
4. Why was she upset with Alfred Stieglitz?
5. What inspired her art work?
6. Which art work is she best known for?
7. What led her to stop painting?
8. Research 2 pieces of art which she created and write about them below.