

Use this fact sheet to learn about the artist Piet Mondrian.

You may need/want to look for additional information, safely, online with a grown up if there are any words or phrases you do not understand or simply to find out more!

# Piet Mondrian

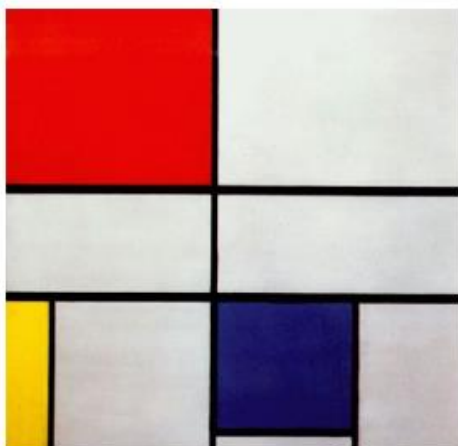
**1872 - 1944**

Piet Mondrian was born in Amersfoort in the Netherlands, in 1872. His father and uncle were both artists so he was introduced to art at a very young age.

In 1892, Piet began working as a teacher at the Amsterdam Academy of Fine Art. He practised painting in his spare time. His first works were landscape paintings of the Dutch countryside. These paintings were 'representational', which means it is easy to see what the painting is about.



Over time Mondrian began painting in a style known as 'cubism'. In cubism artists represent their subject through combinations of geometric shapes. This allows them to show lots of different viewpoints at the same time. But Mondrian wanted his paintings to be even more abstract. Abstract art doesn't show pictures of things but uses colours, lines and shapes to express how the artist is feeling.



Eventually Mondrian developed a style all of his own. He called it 'neo-plasticism'. He got rid of everything that he thought was not 'essential' and limited his work to what he termed 'the basic forms of beauty'. He painted using simple lines and rectangles in white, black, and the primary colours. Mondrian made many paintings in this style.

Piet Mondrian died of pneumonia in New York City in 1944. His distinctive style has continued to grow in fame since his death.