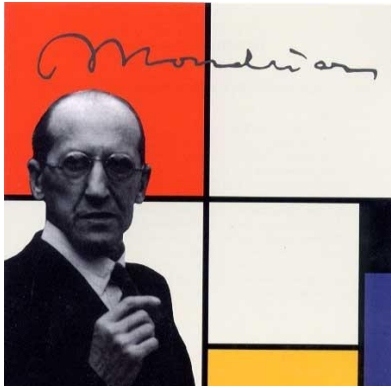


## Piet Mondrian



Piet Mondrian was born in the Netherlands in 1872. He was influenced by many artistic styles and even helped create an artistic movement called De Stijl. The paintings that Piet Mondrian is most famous for are rectangles of white and primary colors (red, blue, and yellow), divided by black lines. He died in 1944, having created about 250 paintings in his lifetime.

Piet Mondrian was born in Amersfoort in the Netherlands, in 1872. He was the second of his parent's children. At a very young age his father Pieter and his Uncle Fritz, both artists themselves, introduced Piet to the world of art.

In 1892, Mondrian entered the Academy for Fine Art in Amsterdam as a teacher. While teaching at the academy he also practiced his painting. Most of his paintings from this period were of landscapes. These paintings of Holland included fields, cows and windmills. These paintings showed the influence that the pointillist (painting with dots) and fauvist (bright colors) movements had on him.

Mondrian's first paintings showed landscapes found in real life. They were done in a style close to impressionism. As his style grew and changed, he stopped using any colors besides the three primaries: red, yellow, and blue. The landscape painting shown here is Avond Evening Red Tree. This is the first painting in which Mondrian used only primary colors, but you can still see some impressionism.



Mondrian soon became interested in cubism. Cubism is an artistic style in which the subject is broken into meaningful pieces and rearranged in a new order to show the most important parts of the object. The painting shown here is called, Still Life with Ginger Pot, and was painted by Mondrian in the cubist style. Because of the influence of cubism, Mondrian's paintings became more and more abstract. Mondrian moved to Paris in 1912 so he could continue to study cubism.

In 1914 Mondrian returned home just before World War I broke out. He stayed there for the duration of the war (1914-1919). During this time he became friends with some other artists and together they began a new movement, De Stijl. The movement was called De Stijl because that was the name of the journal that Mondrian and his friends started. They called the movement neoplasticism and today both names are correct.



The members of the De Stijl movement were searching to paint an even more honest truth than the cubists. They believed the essence or foundation of all things could be found in the simplest form: straight lines and primary colors. So Mondrian began painting pieces like this one called Composition.

Piet Mondrian died of pneumonia in New York City on Feb. 1, 1944. His paintings became so famous in the decades that followed that other painters, advertisers, architects, graphic designers, and even high fashion clothing designers around the world copied his special style.

1. Piet Mondrian was born in the \_\_\_\_\_ in 1872.  
a. United States      b. Netherlands      c. England      d. Mexico
2. True or False      In 1892 his paintings were landscapes of Holland with fields, cows, and windmills.
3. His most famous paintings just used the following five colors.  
a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_ c. \_\_\_\_\_ d. \_\_\_\_\_ e. \_\_\_\_\_
4. In 1912 Mondrian moved to Paris to study \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. farming      b. science      c. cubism      d. history
5. Mondrian and his artist friends began a movement called \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. pointillist      b. cubism      c. De Stijl      d. fauvist
6. Members of the De Stijl movement felt that the foundation of all things could be found in the simplest form: a. \_\_\_\_\_ and b. \_\_\_\_\_
7. True or False      Pete Mondrian died of pneumonia in New York City on Feb. 1, 1944.
8. Fact or Opinion      Pete Mondrian's father and his Uncle Fritz were artists.
9. Fact or Opinion      Pete Mondrian is the best artist that ever lived.
10. Fact or Opinion      Everyone should paint like Pete Mondrian.
11. Fact or Opinion      Pete Mondrian created about 250 paintings in his lifetime.
12. True or False      After his death other painters and designers copied his style.
13. His painting, Still Life with Ginger Pot is painted in the \_\_\_\_\_ style.  
a. pointillist      b. cubist      c. De Stijl      d. fauvist
14. His painting, Composition is painted in the \_\_\_\_\_ style.  
a. pointillist      b. cubist      c. De Stijl      d. fauvist
15. His painting, Avoid Evening Red Tree is a \_\_\_\_\_ painting.  
a. landscape      b. cubist      c. De Stijl      d. pointillist