

'The Kiss' by Gustav Klimt

Background information:

This painting called 'The Kiss' was painted by Klimt in the early 20th century in Austria. He used oil paint and gold and silver leaf on canvas to create it. It is quite large measuring over five feet in height and over five feet in width. It is probably Klimt's most famous painting and depicts a straight-forward subject - a couple who are kissing. It's vivid, rich and luxurious colouring make it very striking.

Take a look at the following labels. See if you can link them into the correct part of the picture using the clues given. Draw a line between each one to the correct part of the picture to do this.

The lady wears flowers, which are interwoven through her hair.

The artist used contrasting patterns to define the man and woman's clothing. The man's robe has a black and white block pattern while the lady's dress shows colourful circles and flowers.

The lady wears a veil which can be seen flowing over her legs.

The patterns Klimt used created a mosaic effect.

The couple sit on a bed of grass and flowers.



The man wears a crown of ivy and his face is turned away from us, the audience.

Questions

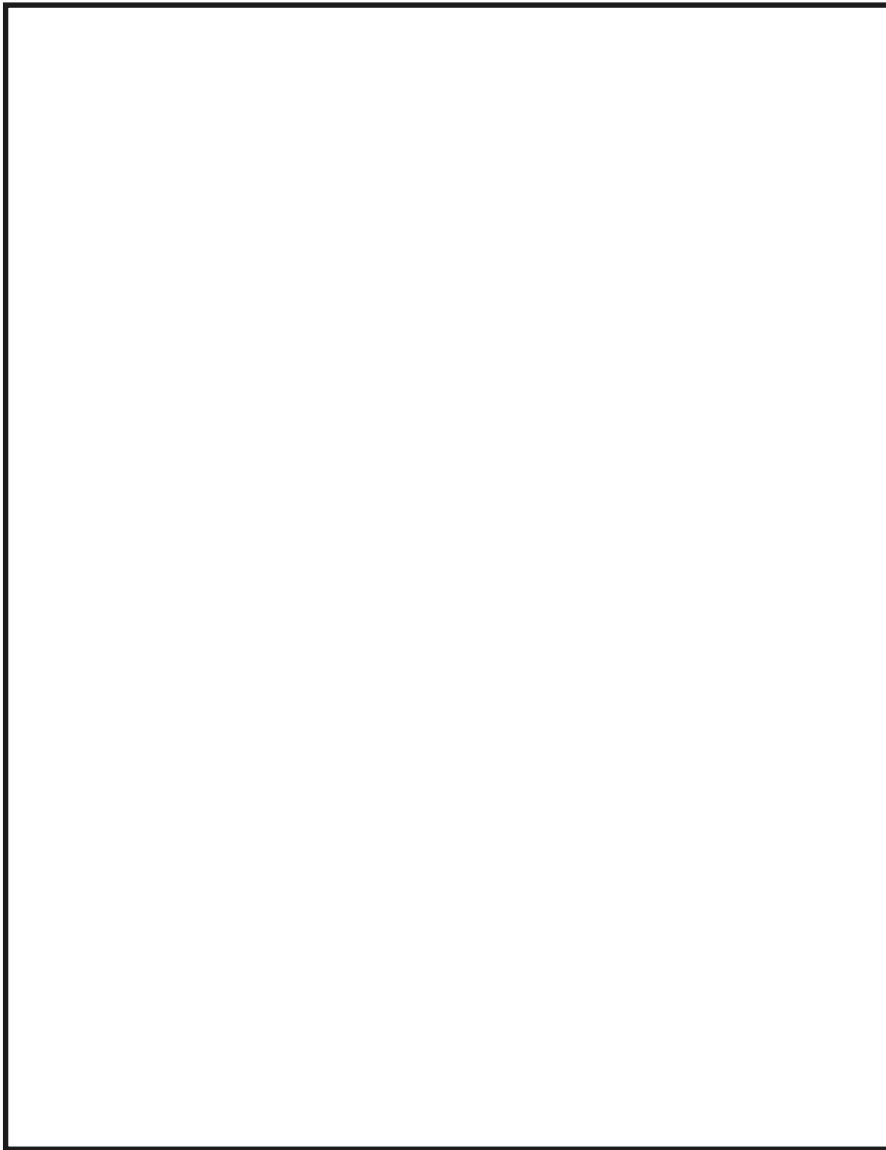
Why did Klimt choose gold and silver leaf to overlap areas of his painting? What effect did this have?

Have you ever seen gold or silver leaf in use in other objects or paintings? If so, where was it and why was it used?

'The Kiss', like many other famous paintings, has often been reproduced on t-shirts, coasters and fridge magnets for tourists to buy when they visit Austria. If you were lucky enough to own your own copy of the painting where would you choose to display it? Why would you think this setting would be suitable?

Draw Your Own

Now draw your own sketch of the painting using your memory only:



Extra challenge:

Use the Internet or your dictionary to find the meanings for the following art term:

Mosaic:

Use the Internet to research three facts about the artist – Gustav Klimt.

1.

2.

3.
