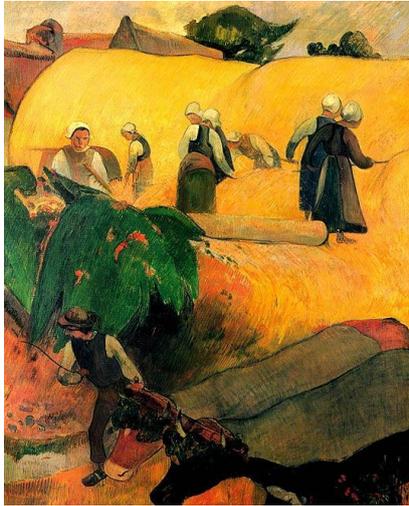


**Cunningham Creek Elementary**  
**Meet the Artist**

**Gauguin, Paul- Harvest Scene & Currier, Nathaniel and Ives, James- Market Preparation**



**ARTIST: GAUGIN, PAUL ( 1848-1903)**

**PRINT: *HARVEST SCENE*** Post Impressionism  
Courtauld Institute Galleries, London  
Date: 1889  
Size: 92 x 73.3 cm  
Medium:

**ARTIST: Pronounced: (goh-GAN)**

- Born in 1848 in Paris, France
- Died in 1903 in Tahiti (age 55)
- Spent most of his childhood in Peru.
- At the age of seventeen he enlisted in the merchant marine (people who work on commercial ships) in order to fulfill France's military service requirement. After three years he joined the Navy, spending two more years there.

- In 1870 Gauguin began a career as a stockbroker (a person who buys and sells shares of companies) and remained in this profession for twelve years. He married a Danish girl, Mette Sophia Gad, and seemed destined for a comfortable middle-class existence. Gauguin was living a very traditional life as a Parisian stockbroker, family man and weekend painter.
- Gauguin at age 35 decided to give up his business after the stock market crashed and devote himself entirely to painting (with encouragement from Camille Pissarro). His wife took their five children back to live with her parents. In Paris, Gauguin supported himself by pasting advertisements on walls.
- Gauguin had an original style that included broad strokes of unmixed paint, bright colors and simplified designs.
- In 1891 Gauguin moved to the French colony of Tahiti. Most of his most famous paintings were painted here.
- In Tahiti he lived a life of poverty and his health deteriorated.
- Spent time in 1888 at the Yellow House in Arles staying with Van Gogh. The two did not get along over the course of their friendship.
- Some believe Gauguin was the one who actually cut off van Gogh's ear.

**PRINT:** This painting is known for its bright colors and its sharp, out-lined edges • He painted this in Le Pouldu in Brittany, in a search for a simpler life. • Gauguin was intrigued by folk and primitive art, and he used distorted perspectives and flat spaces of color. This piece is painted from top to bottom. The brushstrokes move in a downward direction like a waterfall to help take the viewer through the painting. The oxen are moving forward. What kind of tree is in the center of this painting? (A palm tree.) Do palm trees usually grow in fields? (No. He painted these Breton peasants working in a field in France.) Gauguin moved a lot throughout his life and lived in many different places.

He liked to take different things from all the places he had been and insert them randomly into his paintings. He didn't just paint what he actually saw. It was his way of showing the movement of his own life in his work.

**ARTIST:** Currier, Nathaniel (American, 1813-1888) and James Ives (1824-1895)

**PRINT: Market Preparation**

Date: 1856

Size: 18 15/16 x 27 1/4 inches

Medium: Hand-colored lithograph

**ARTISTS:** The firm of Currier and Ives, in business from 1834 until 1907, produced over 7,000 different prints and over one million copies of those prints. More of their lithographs (prints made by creating art, then transferring that art to a special stone with a variety of grease pencils, then applying ink, printing in a press, then hand-coloring) hung in American houses than any other art. Their work was so important in creating images of 19th-century America that it has become a phrase to describe that era. So, in the song "Sleigh Ride," today the most popular Christmas-season play on the radio, the lyrics describe a sleigh ride as "a picture print by Currier and Ives." Indeed, scenes of an earlier rural America are often described today as "Currier and Ives scenes."

**PRINT:** White horse at center in farm yard - horse facing viewer pulling wagon with man in wagon loading goods handed up by woman. A second horse standing to right dog and farmyard animals.

After Louis Maurer American, 1832-1932 Louis Maurer, a woodcarver who emigrated from Germany in 1851, was employed by Currier & Ives as a designer and lithographer. He worked for the company for eight years, producing scenes of rural life, fire-fighting and sporting events, especially those involving horses.

He left Currier & Ives to establish his own lithography firm, Heppenheimer & Maurer, and retired in 1884 to pursue his hobbies of painting, horseback riding and target shooting. Today, one can find several Currier & Ives images that state, "Printed by Heppenheimer & Maurer." In *Preparing for Market*, Maurer created a scene of country bounty. The dignified farmer and his wife place carrots, cabbage, apples, onions, eggs, chickens and other surplus produce on their wagon in anticipation of bringing the products into town for trade or sale. Maurer stated that the design was his favorite of all those produced and Currier & Ives published three versions of the print.

### **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. What are the people doing in this paintings?
2. What colors do you see in the paintings? Which color do you see the most?
3. Is this mostly a warm or cool painting?
4. Gauguin- Do you think the peasants feel hot/warm working out in the field on a sunny day?
5. What season do you think it is in this painting? (Fall, Harvest time)
6. Can you tell what time of day it is? How does the artist depict the time of day?
7. If you were in this painting what sounds would you hear? What smells would you smell?
8. What do you think the weather is like on this day? How can you tell?
9. Are the people in this painting men or women? What is the man doing in this painting? What are the women doing?
10. What shapes can you see in this painting?

### **RELATED ACTIVITIES**

1. Discuss what you do with your family in the fall. Paint/ draw a picture of your fall activity.
2. Make observational drawings (pencil, chalk, pastels) of some fruits and vegetables that remind you of harvest time.
3. Make collages with fallen leaves, sticks
4. Use coloured paper and fall pictures/phorographs from magazines to make harvest/fall collages.