


JMW Turner fact sheet



Joseph Mallord William (J.M.W.) Turner was born in London in 1775. His father was a barber and wig-maker, and his mother came from a family of butchers.

Turner was a landscape painter, traveller, poet and teacher. At the age of fourteen, he became a student at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Turner was a Romantic artist and became well known for painting beautiful landscapes, dramatic storms and scenes of nature. He was quite famous during his lifetime, though not everyone liked his work! Now he is one of Britain's most loved artists.

Turner always carried a sketchbook with him, and would do lots and lots of drawings in it. He would then number the sketches, so that when he was back in his studio he could use them as references for his paintings.

You could start carrying a sketchbook around and using it to draw in, too. Try to record the things you see every day. Do they look different over time?

Artist's Advice:
"There's a sketch at every turn."

Turner is often regarded as Britain's most famous landscape painter ever. He was fascinated by the weather and the power of the natural world.

In *Buttermere Lake, with Part of Cromackwater, Cumberland, a Shower*, Turner wanted to capture the stormy conditions in the Lake District that day, and added a rainbow to show the beauty of nature in even the bleakest weather.

