

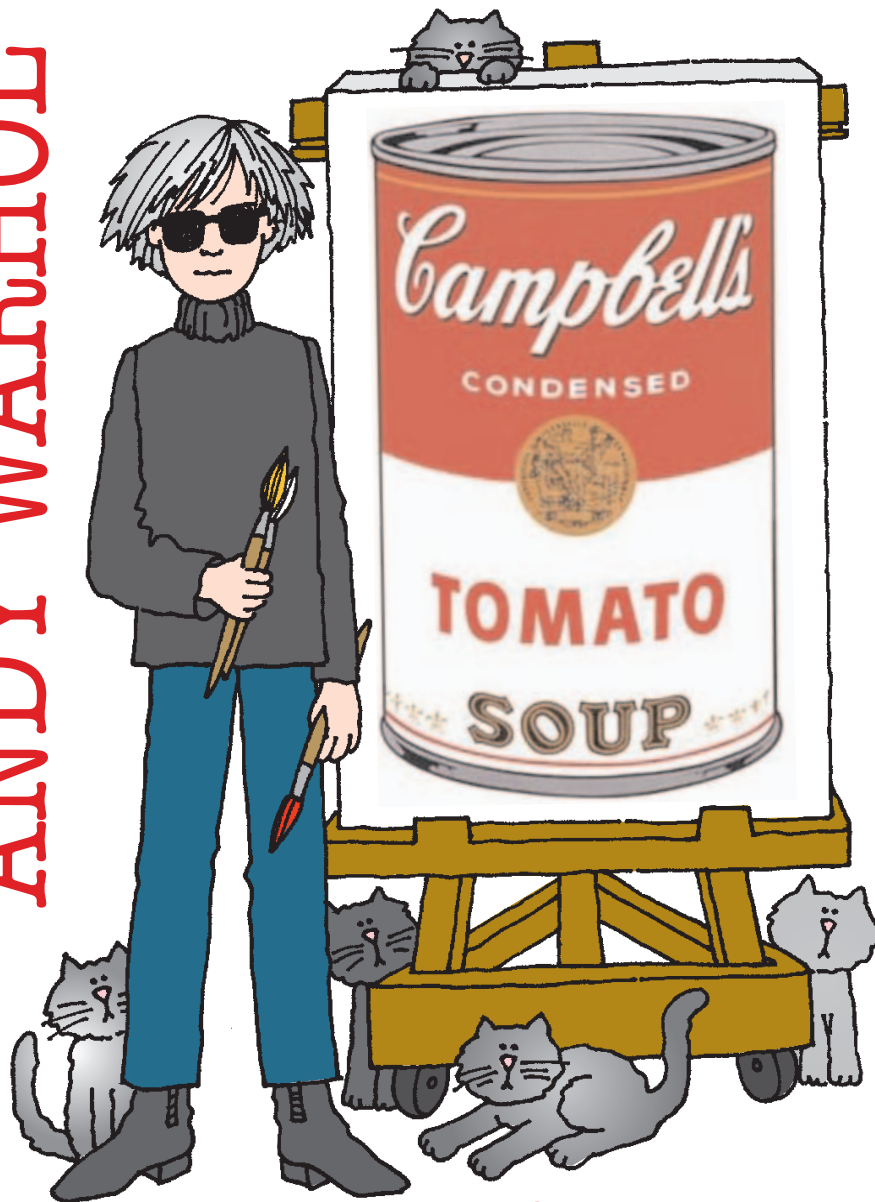
As one of the most influential American artists of the 20th century, Andy Warhol's lifestyle and work reflected the rapidly changing culture of his time. Introduce students to an important period of art history through this "souperstar," whose involvement in the world of art encompassed painting, silk screening, sculpture, photography, advertising, film, television, music, journalism, literature, and consumer products.

Life of a Souperstar

Born "Andrew Warhola" in 1928 to immigrant parents who settled in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Andy Warhol experienced various health problems as a young boy and spent many days at home doing artwork with his mother until his health was restored. During this time he was surrounded by coloring books, paper dolls, comic books, and movie magazines. Young Andy was greatly encouraged in his drawing efforts by his mother and teachers, who recognized his interest and talent early on, and he began to take weekend art classes at a local museum. This further sparked his interest and drawing skills. He carried a sketchbook wherever he went, and by the time Andy entered high school, he was drawing constantly. His room was filled with his drawings.

The Warhola family did not have a lot of money but they worked hard, like most of the families in their coal-mining town. Still, Andy's father, who died when Andy was 14, wanted his son to further his education beyond high school and managed to save enough money for

ANDY WARHOL



Prince of Pop

Andy to attend Carnegie Institute of Technology, where he studied design and illustration. There was considerable disagreement among his teachers at CIT about whether Andy was talented or simply unique. And that question is still debated today: Was he a genius or was he just successful in making people think he was? But no one can debate the fact that, through his work, Andy Warhol continually challenged people's ideas about what art is and how people should react to it.

A Working Artist

After finishing his final year at Carnegie, Andy Warhol moved to New York City to look for a job. It is well known that he carried his paintings and drawings in a brown paper bag as he visited advertising agencies and magazine publishers in search of work. This earned him the nicknames of Raggedy Andy and Andy Paperbag. His first assignment came from an editor at *Glamour* magazine, who was impressed by the style of Andy's drawing—a style he had devel-

oped at Carnegie. He would draw a picture in ink, then press the drawing onto another sheet of paper and rub hard, giving the final print a broken or blotted look. The *Glamour* magazine assignment was to draw shoes, one of Warhol's favorite subjects, and that marked the beginning of a very successful period in his working life—commercial art.

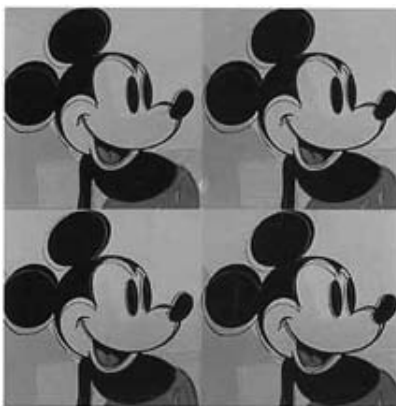


He continued to find work in advertising and publishing, earning a great deal of money and winning many awards. But Andy Warhol wanted more. He wanted to be as famous as the celebrities he had read about as a boy. It became almost an obsession with him, and he decided that, in order to be famous, he needed to become a "serious" artist rather than a commercial artist. When a friend suggested that he paint things that people see every day at home or in stores—things as simple as a can of soup, Warhol took her advice. He asked his mother, who now lived with him in New York City, to buy every kind of Campbell's soup she could find. Then, surrounded by all 32 varieties of Campbell's soup, Andy began to paint. And the rest, as they say, is history.



Pop Art

Though Andy Warhol is probably the artist most associated with the Pop Art movement, this period of art history actually had its roots in England about 10 years before he painted his first soup can. Coined from the word "popular," Pop Art included paintings, drawings, and sculptures of objects found in everyday life, as well as products of the mass media. In the United States, this movement reached a peak in the 1960s, following a period of abstract expressionism. The Pop artists were not interested in abstract ideas. Most of them had been trained in commercial art and wanted to bring the real world—the everyday world—back into art. They wanted to reflect the society around them—a culture obsessed with youth, dependent on mass manufacture, disposable goods, convenience foods, and mass media. Because it was easy to understand, the Pop Art movement established itself quickly



and was a perfect vehicle for the art style and celebrity of Andy Warhol.

In addition to soup cans, Warhol painted Coca-Cola bottles, dollar bills, and giant cartoons of Little Nancy, Dick Tracy, Popeye, Superman, and Mickey Mouse. His portraits of famous people also brought him a great deal of recognition...portraits of Marilyn Monroe, Jacqueline Kennedy, Grace Kelly, Elvis Presley, rock stars, and athletes.



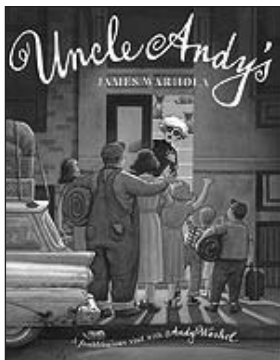
Well established as the Prince of Pop, Warhol began to experiment with other media such as sculpture, film, magazines, and literature. He was one of the most prolific artists of our time and enjoyed the adulation of fans and art critics around the world.

Mystery Man

The image of Andy Warhol was perhaps as stark and familiar as his famous soup cans. Tall, thin, and extremely pale, he often dressed completely in black and wore boots, dark glasses, and an unkempt silver wig which covered his balding head. Warhol slept during the day—often as few as two or three hours—and worked at night in his studio, which he called the Factory. The studio was completely covered in aluminum foil or painted silver, his favorite color, and it became a

popular gathering place for artists, actors, and celebrities. The fact that Warhol rarely spoke added to the mystery which always surrounded him. One editor reported that she never heard him utter more than the typical "Gee," "Wow," "Really?" "Oh," "Ah," "Er," or his familiar "Faabbbulous."

Share an interesting perspective of this enigmatic artist through the picture book **Uncle Andy's**, written and illustrated by Warhol's nephew, James Warhola (Putnam). It offers a warm, light-hearted glimpse of the artist as a family member when his junk-dealer brother would pile his family of seven children into the car and drive to New York City to visit Uncle Andy and Grandma Warhola for



several days at a time. Kids will enjoy the lively visual images of the artist's studio in wonderful disarray...full of interesting artifacts, 25 cats (all named Sam), and the many works of art that were always in progress. James Warhola credits these visits to the studio with teaching him about the creative process and inspiring him to be an artist.



Warhol Sketchbook

Andy Warhol's sketchbook was his constant companion during his school days. Encourage your students to create a biographical sketchbook based on this famous artist by duplicating the cover and sentence strips on the following pages. Have kids cut apart the strips and glue each one on a separate page. Then follow the drawing directions and assemble the pages to create a sketchbook in

honor of this Prince of Pop. *Faabbbulous!*

Warhol Resources

Check your school and public library for the following books, which offer more extensive information about the life and work of Andy Warhol:

Andy Warhol

Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artists Series
by Mike Venezia
(Children's Press)

Andy Warhol

Artist Biographies Series
by Carin T. Ford
(Enslow)

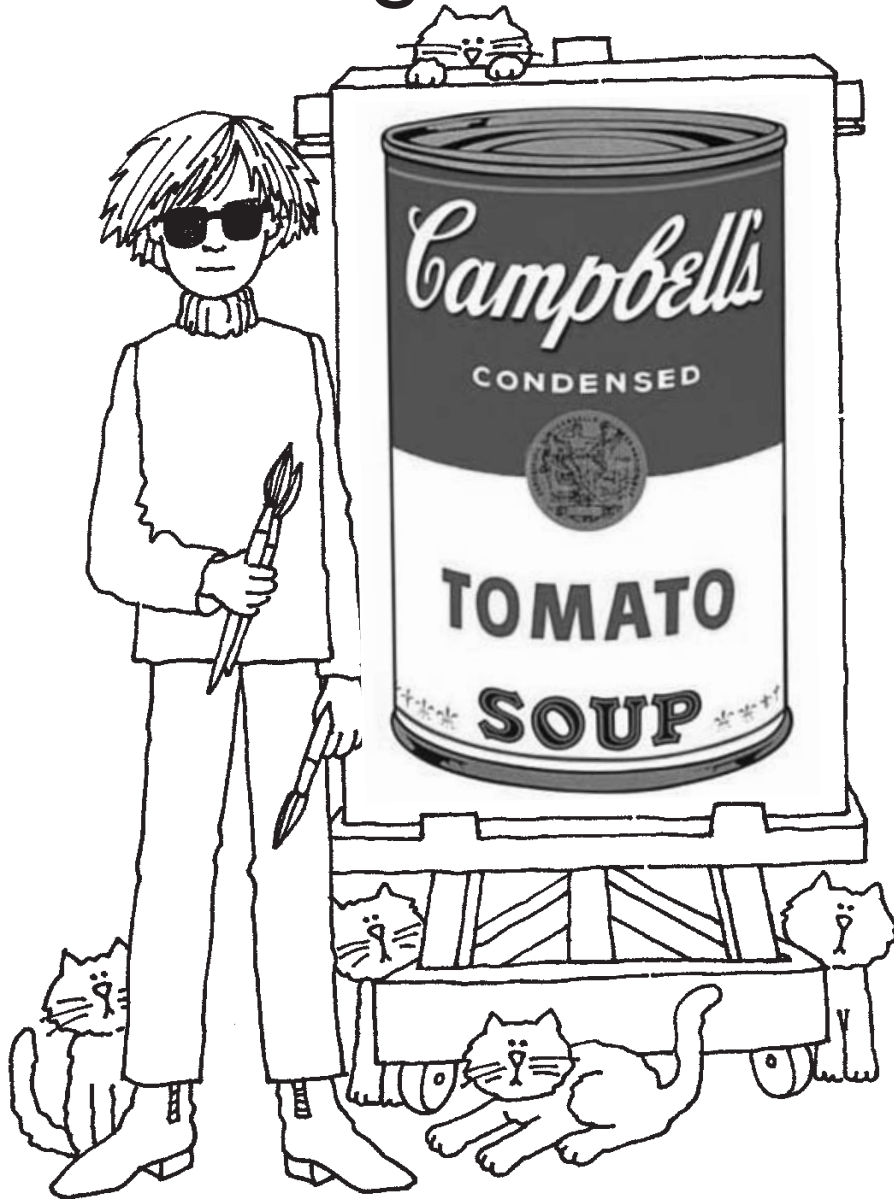
Andy Warhol

Artists in Their Time Series
by Linda Bolton
(Scholastic)

Don't miss the outstanding educational links on the Warhol Museum site at www.warhol.org/education/elementary_school_pack.html. Teachers are invited to download four Warhol lesson plans which include images, step-by-step instructions, and background information.

My Sketchbook

Remembering ANDY WARHOL



Andy Warhol is a famous American artist. People called him the Prince of Pop because he was the most famous artist of the Pop Art period. The Pop artists painted “popular” things that we see every day.

name

SKETCHBOOK SENTENCE STRIPS

1 When Andy Warhol was a young boy, he liked to draw, read comic books and movie magazines, and watch movies. Draw something that you like to do.

2 Andy experimented with a new way of drawing. He used ink to draw a picture on a sheet of paper. While the ink was still wet, he would press the drawing on a new sheet of paper and rub hard. This would create a new blotchy or broken image. Then he would add color. He especially like to draw shoes this way. Try drawing your shoe the same way.

3 When Andy first began to work as an artist, he got jobs drawing advertisements in magazines and newspapers. Draw an advertisement for something that you would like to buy or sell.

4 Andy Warhol's artwork was called Pop Art because he drew pictures of "popular" things that we use every day...even soup cans and soda bottles and dollar bills. Draw a close-up picture of something you use every day.

5 Andy painted pictures of many famous people. These pictures were called portraits. Draw a portrait of someone famous. Draw the outline in black. Then add bright, bold colors...like Andy Warhol did.

6 Sometimes Andy would make a drawing by repeating one thing many times. He might use the same colors for each one...or different colors. Divide this page into smaller sections and repeat the same drawing in each section. Use different colors to color each one.

7 Andy Warhol called his studio the Factory. He painted it silver. He had 25 cats all named Sam. Draw Andy in his studio with some of his cats. Make him tall and thin. Draw him with black clothes, dark glasses, and silver hair.
