



Paul Nash

Painter

Born: 11 May 1889

Died: 11 July 1946

ARTY FACT!

As well as being a landscape painter, Paul Nash illustrated many books and designed theatre sets.

Paul Nash's life

Paul Nash was born in London. He and his family moved to the countryside when he was 12.

He went to Art School in London for a year, but he didn't like all the figure drawing they wanted him to do, he wanted to paint landscapes. By 1914 he had already shown work in exhibitions.

Paul joined the army at the start of the First World War but was not sent to France until 1917. He was soon wounded and sent back home, where he put on an exhibition of the drawings he had made in France. The drawings were so good that he was sent back to France as an official war artist. He was shocked by how much of the landscape had been destroyed in the few short months he had been away and by the horror of the war.

What makes Paul Nash special?

The anger which Paul Nash felt about the pointlessness and destruction of the First World War was expressed in the paintings he made as a war artist. His paintings are amongst the most powerful records of that cruel and bitter war. There are very few figures in his paintings, he focusses on the damaged landscape. The blackened tree stumps, the shell-blasted mud and rising smoke, somehow suggest human suffering. The exhibition of his war paintings in 1918 was a huge success.

Paul Nash never recovered from his experiences as a war artist. Many of the landscapes he painted after the war, particularly the seascapes he painted in Dymchurch in the 1920s, are filled with deep sadness.

WHAT CAN YOU SEE?

Can You find the painting Winter Sea by Paul Nash?
Does the painting make you feel happy or sad?

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Draw or paint a place you know.
Use colours and shapes in your picture that show how you feel about that place.