

JMW Turner (1775-1851): The Painter of Light

Answers

1. Where was Turner born and what kind of area was it? He was born in Covent Garden which contained the fruit and vegetable market and was an area of dirt and danger, prostitution and robberies.
2. What difficulties did he experience in his early family life? His mother suffered from mental health problems and his sister died when she was 5 and Turner was 8. Turner was sent away from home.
3. How old was Turner when he entered the Royal Academy of Arts? 14
4. What types of subjects did Turner often paint? Seascapes, landscapes, storms, shipwrecks, fires and historical scenes.
5. How did the Industrial Revolution influence his work? It influenced him to paint modern elements such as steam trains, steam ships and factories.
6. Why is *The Fighting Temeraire* considered symbolic? What does it represent? It shows the end of an era with the coming of the Industrial Revolution represented by the change from sailing ships to steam ships.
7. How did Turner's travels influence his artistic style? His travels, especially to Italy, influenced his use of light and colour.
8. In what ways did his later style differ from his earlier work? His later style was looser, more expressive, and focused on light and atmosphere rather than fine detail.
9. Why do some art historians connect Turner to Impressionism? Because his use of light and colour influenced the later development of Impressionism.
10. What does the text suggest about Turner's personality and lifestyle? He was private, hardworking, dedicated, wealthy but lived modestly.

Match the words from the text to their meanings

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|------------------|---|
| 1. Influential m | a. Represents something larger or deeper |
| 2. Lack c | b. Full of action, excitement or emotion |
| 3. Recognition j | c. Not having something |
| 4. Elitist i | d. The general mood or feeling of a place |
| 5. Dramatic b | e. Changed completely |
| 6. Shipwreck n | f. A small, powerful boat used for pulling larger boats |

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|-------------------------|--|
| 7. Transformed e | g. Showing strong feelings |
| 8. Tugboat f | h. A period of time in history |
| 9. Symbolises a | i. Describes a system where only a few people have power or influence |
| 10. Era h | j. Being known and respected for achievement |
| 11. Expressive g | k. Not showing off wealth or success |
| 12. Atmosphere d | l. Loyal and committed to something |
| 13. Dedicated l | m. Having a strong effect on people or ideas |
| 14. Modestly k | n. Loss or destruction of a ship at sea because of a storm or because it hits rocks etc. |

Complete the table:

Verb	Noun	Adjective
Inspire	Inspiration	Inspirational
Recognise	Recognition	Recognised
Dedicate	Dedication	Dedicated
Transform	Transformation	Transformative / transformed
Influence	Influence	Influential
Dramatise	Drama	Dramatic
Symbolise	Symbol	Symbolic
Express	Expression	Expressive

Use these words to complete the text

Industrial Revolution	atmosphere	Royal Academy	seascapes	influential
Venice	symbolises	modest	transformed	recognition

Joseph Mallord William Turner was one of the most **influential** British painters of the 19th century. He entered the **Royal Academy** of Arts when he was only fourteen and quickly gained **recognition** for his talent.

Turner is famous for his dramatic **seascapes** and landscapes. His work reflects the changes brought by the **Industrial Revolution**, a period when Britain was rapidly **transformed** by industry and new technology. His painting *The Fighting Temeraire* **symbolises** the transition from old sailing ships to modern steam power.

Turner travelled widely, especially to Italy. The light he saw in **Venice** influenced his later style, which focused more on colour and **atmosphere** than fine detail. Although he became wealthy, he lived a relatively **modest** life.

Choose the correct answer: A, B, C or D

1. JMW Turner was born in:

- a) Manchester
- b) **London**
- c) Liverpool
- d) Bristol

2. Turner became a full member of the Royal Academy of Arts at the age of:

- a) 14
- b) 21
- c) **27**
- d) 40

3. Turner's work was influenced by which major historical development?

- a) The English Civil War
- b) The First World War
- c) The Victorian education reforms
- d) **The Industrial Revolution**

4. *The Fighting Temeraire* represents:

- a) A famous sea battle
- b) The beginning of the British Empire
- c) **The transition from sailing ships to steam power**
- d) A celebration of modern trains

5. What kind of area was Covent Garden when Turner was born?

- a) A residential area for the upper classes
- b) **A working-class area**
- c) An area of expensive shops and restaurants
- d) A rural area

6. What art movement is Turner thought to have influenced?

- a) Cubism
- b) Surrealism
- c) **Impressionism**
- d) Abstract Expressionism

7. Who was Sarah Danby?

- a) His housekeeper
- b) **His housekeeper's aunt**
- c) His aunt's housekeeper
- d) His father's widow

8. Where did Turner move to after his father died?

- a) Brentford
- b) Chelsea
- c) Covent Garden
- d) Margate

9. What did Turner want to happen to his works after his death?

- a) All of his works to be left to his two daughters
- b) Many of his works to be given to the British nation
- c) All of his works to be left to Sophia Booth
- d) Most of his work to be destroyed