



# KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER ART – The Pitman Painters

## KEY VOCABULARY

figurative	art that is clearly derived from real objects and is quite realistic
composition	how the picture is 'put together' or set out
perspective	an approximate representation, of an image as it is seen by the eye
aerial perspective	the effect atmosphere has on objects in the distance - making them appear fainter.
hue	the colour (of the paint)
analogous colours	analogous colours sit next to one another on the colour wheel
complimentary colours	complimentary colours are diagonally opposite on the colour wheel
subject of a painting	the topic or focus of the picture

## Who were the Pitman Painters?

The Ashington Group, also known as the Pitmen Painters, produced hundreds of paintings showing what life was like both above and below ground for their mining communities in Northumberland. They began as an art appreciation class in 1934, through the WEA (Workers Education Association). Their tutor wanted them to learn about art through 'doing' so the group started to paint. Over the next 50 years the Ashington Group met weekly, experimenting with techniques and materials.



aerial perspective



complimentary



analogous

## How was their art created?

Their teacher decided to use a practical approach of learning instead of observational. He initially started with creating linocuts with the group, but soon they progressed to knives and brushes. The idea was to learn about the old masters by making art rather than simply observing. Their teacher would choose weekly subjects for members to paint at home, and they would then have to bring their works to class to be discussed by everyone. They focused on subjects that surrounded them, showing the world of mining communities- the work at the pits, whippet racing, weekend work at allotments.

