

About America

Warm up

A Label the pictures with the words in the box.

				
watercolor	pen and ink	oil painting	marble	watercolor

B Label the definitions with words from the box.

medium	sculpture	statue	animation	canvases
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- sculpture — The art of making, carving or modeling three-dimensional objects.
- canvases — Strong, heavy cloth usually made of cotton or linen.
- medium — Materials used in a work of art.
- statue — An image of an animal or person that is made of stone, wood, or bronze.
- animation — Making a series of photographs or drawings look as if they are moving.

Reading

C Read the text and answer the question.

Film in America





When we think about art in America, we often imagine strolling through art galleries or museums to look at famous paintings and sculptures. There, the focus is on visual arts where artists use various mediums like oil paints and watercolors on canvases, marble for carving sculptures, cameras for taking photographs, and simple pen and paper for drawing. America is also known for its music, theater, dance, and film which fall into the category of performing arts. Walt Disney is a very famous American artist who combined both drawing and film to become one of the most successful animators in the United States.

Walt Disney was born in 1901 and always enjoyed drawing. He even sold some of his sketches when he was a child in order to make extra money. After spending many years drawing cartoons, and working as a commercial illustrator, he created a character named Mortimer Mouse and began an animated show. His wife suggested that he change the first name to Mickey, his friend, Ub Iwerks, helped finish the cartoon design. Walt gave him a voice, and Mickey Mouse was born in 1928. To this day, the name Disney is known worldwide for animated films and popular theme parks. He said himself, "I only hope that we don't lose sight of one thing—that it was all started by a mouse."

Do you know any other characters created by the man in the text? Donald Duck, Minnie Mouse, Huey, Dewey, and Lewey and so on.

D Read the article again. Circle T (true) or F (false).

- T F Sculptures are works of art that fall into the category of Performing Arts.
- T F Walt Disney is a famous American painter.
- T F Walt Disney's wife helped choose the name for Mickey Mouse.
- T F The art of animation in America was influenced by Walt Disney.

E Read the article again and answer the questions.

- What are some examples of visual art?
Paintings, oil and watercolor, ink drawings, photographs, statues or sculptures, computer-generated graphics, chalk paintings, pottery.
- Besides museums and art galleries, where can you find examples of visual art?
In books, magazines, at schools, famous gardens, at historical spots, in restaurants (think of places that use the art for decoration), billboards, posters at bus stops.
- What types of art do animated movies combine?
Drawing (or illustration) which is a visual art, with animation/film which is a performing art.
- Did Walt Disney create Mickey Mouse alone?
No, he came up with a different mouse character named Mortimer, but his wife suggested the name Mickey, and his friend Ub Iwerks helped design the cartoon.

F Fill in the blanks with the Key Words.

- When we were driving down the highway, I could see the colorful billboard from far away.
- I love to explore the countryside taking photos of the landscape.
- I would like to learn how to draw a funny cartoon character for a comic strip.
- I noticed that the artist for the parade poster used the technique of big strokes and bright colors to catch our attention.
- Before I paint a scene, I like to sketch my design first.
- He likes to stand at the easel when he paints, instead of sitting at a table.
- As an illustrator, her art has been used in many children's books.
- He chose a career as an animator hopping to create popular animated films.

Key Words	
cartoon	sketch
landscape	billboard
illustrator	easel
animator	technique

Extension

G Discuss the questions in pairs. Then share your ideas with the class.

- Do you think Walt Disney knew Mickey would be so successful? Why do you think Mickey Mouse cartoons are still so popular?
- Disney said, "Of all of our inventions for mass communication, pictures still speak the most universally understood language". What did he mean? Do you agree? Why do artists share their work with others?

H Write a text similar to the one in Exercise C talking about the arts in your country.



Over to you!

Listening

A Discuss the questions in pairs. Answers will vary. Who are the famous artists from your country? What different mediums have you used to create art? What is your favourite?

B **Track 6** Discuss the questions in pairs. The answers will vary. Listen to two different students. Luis and Jacqueline from explain their feelings about art. Before you listen, do you think they both enjoy the same type of art?

C **Track 7** Listen again. Circle T (true) or F (false).

- 1 T / F Luis has always enjoyed drawing.
- 2 T / F Luis has trouble using his imagination.
- 3 T / F Luis considers himself a talented artist.
- 4 T / F His teacher is encouraging and helpful.
- 5 T / F Luis is good at drawing action scenes.
- 6 T / F Jacqueline's favourite artist is American.
- 7 T / F Jacqueline was eight when she started to paint.
- 8 T / F Jacqueline plans to be an artist.



Task

D You are going to design a cartoon character. Decide what he or she will look like. What is your character's personality like? What is your character's purpose? What storyline can you create for your character? Draw or sketch your character. Report to the class.

Extension

E Work in pairs and answer the questions.

- 1 While you are living with your host family and exploring part of America, notice the art around you. What types of art does your host family own? Does anyone in their family create art that they display? How does this compare to art you see at home?
- 2 You may visit a museum with your student group, or you can ask your host family if you can go to a local museum. Try to identify the different mediums of art on display. Which one is your favourite?



Passport Link

Now you have finished this unit you are ready to get out and find out more about art in the USA.

There are some questions to help you on page 85 of your EF Passport to Learn. Don't forget to fill it in and share your findings with your classmates.