

English is fun

Unit 7, lesson 1 (page 88)

El Greco (Doménikos Theotokópoulos)

El Greco **was born** in Hania, Crete in 1541. At that time Crete **was** part of the Republic of Venice.

As a young man he **studied** Byzantine icon painting in Hania. He **moved** to Venice in 1567 where he continued to study painting. In 1570 he **went** to Rome. He **lived** and **worked** in Rome until 1577.

In 1577 he **moved** to Spain in Toledo, near Madrid where he **lived** and **worked** until the end of his life. He **died** in 1614 at the age of 73.

El Greco **had** a very individual style. His paintings show both Byzantine and Italian styles. They also show strong Catholic religious elements from Spain.

He is one of the most famous painters of the 16th century. His paintings **influenced** many famous artists after him, for example Picasso and Cézanne.

In honour of El Greco, Nikos Kazantzakis **called** his autobiography "A Tribute to Greco".



Comprehension questions:

1. What was El Greco's real name? _____
2. When was he born? 1542 1541 1451
3. Where was he born? In ... Heraklion Chania Lasithi
4. What did he study in Chania?

5. When did he move to Venice? In _____
6. In 1570 he went to London. True False.
7. In 1577 he moved to Spain in Toledo near Madrid. True False
8. He died in _____
9. His paintings show both _____ and _____ styles.
10. He influenced artists like _____ and _____