

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".



A. Read the following statements on El Greco and decide if they are true (T) or false (F) according to the information of the text above.

1. El Greco was born in Venice. _____
2. El Greco lived in three different countries. _____
3. El Greco came back in Crete and died in his hometown. _____
4. He painted only Byzantine paintings. _____
5. El Greco was influenced by famous artists like Picasso. _____
6. El Greco is one of the most famous painters of the 16th century. _____
7. Nikos Kazantzakis wrote El Greco's biography. _____
8. His paintings include religious elements. _____
9. El Greco was the painter's real name. _____
10. El Greco's didn't have to study his art because he was very talented. _____