



# GIUSEPPE ARCIMBOLDO

## Biography

- Giuseppe Arcimboldo was an Italian painter.
- He lived between 1527 and 1593 in Milan, Italy.
- Arcimboldo is most well-known for painting imaginative portrait heads made entirely of objects such as fruit, vegetables and flowers.
- He also drew portraits for Roman Emperors, produced religious artworks, and drew exotic animals.
- He is most famous for works such as *Vertumnus*, *The Librarian* and *Four Seasons in One Head*.
- Arcimboldo's portraits arranging lifeless objects into human forms were deliberately grotesque – designed to amuse members of the court. Whilst his more traditional works have largely been lost, his fun portraits remain a source of fascination today.



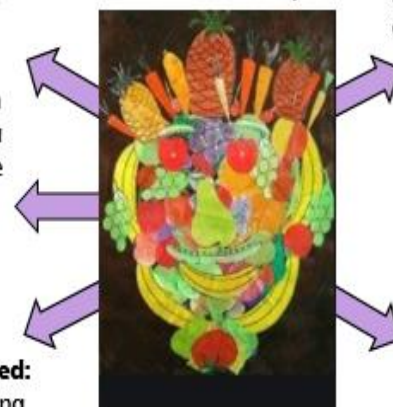
## How do I create art like Arcimboldo?

**Step 2:** Decide if you are going to draw your fruit/vegetables or use images.

**Step 1:** Decide which fruit/vegetables you would like to include in your piece. Think about what the colours/objects may symbolise.

**Things you'll need:**  
Pencil, A3 drawing paper, crayons/pastels, glue, scissors, images (if needed).

**Step 3:** Draw or select your fruit vegetable images and cut them out carefully. You will need lots of shapes!



*A child's Arcimboldo collage*

**Step 4:** Move the different objects around on the page in different orders to create your portrait. Consider how the shapes create facial expressions, and experiment with different colours together.

**Step 5:** When you are sure of that your shapes create the portrait that you want, use your glue to stick each of the shapes down firmly on the paper.

## Key Vocabulary

**Italy:** The country in southern Europe where Arcimboldo was born.

**Milan:** A large city in northern Italy where Arcimboldo grew up and began his career as an artist.

**Portrait:** A piece of art that shows a person, usually focusing on their face and shoulders to show what they look like or their personality.

**Symbolism:** Using an object to represent a bigger idea. For example, Arcimboldo used spring flowers to represent childhood or ripe vegetables to represent the harvest.

**Surrealism:** A style of art that combines real things in strange or dream-like ways that would not happen in real life—such as a face made of fish!

**Mannerism:** A style of art from the 16th century where artists used their imagination to make things look unusual, elegant, or "odd" rather than perfectly realistic.

**Collage:** A technique where different materials or cut-out pictures are arranged and stuck onto a surface.

## What I should already know:

- How to use drawings to share imagination.
- How to select colours that complement each other.
- How to use art and design technique to help develop the use of oil pastels.
- How to shape and shade using a variety of colours
- To plan and design a piece of work.
- How to tear/ cut paper.

## What I will know at the end of the topic:

- How to plan a piece of artwork based on another artist's style.
- How to evaluate and analyse artwork using appropriate vocabulary.
- How to experiment using different media to create a portrait.
- Have an increased level of confidence with using oil pastels.
- To practice using water colour paints.

