

'The Persistence of Memory'

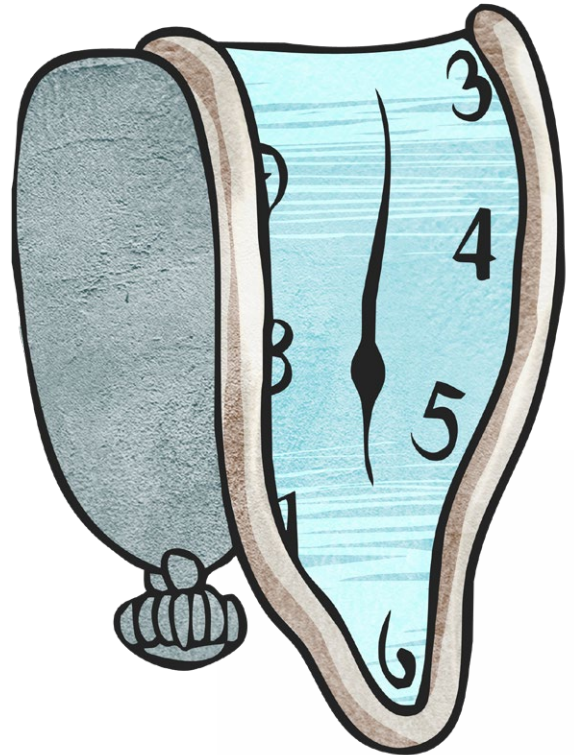
by Salvador Dalí

Background information:

This painting called 'The Persistence of Time' was painted by Dalí in 1931 in Spain. He used oil paint on canvas to paint it. It is very small measuring just 33 centimetres in width and 24 centimetres in height. Dalí wanted it to make us think about the passing of time, our memories and dreams. It is full of powerful symbols and reveals two of Dalí's strongest memories from his own childhood – ants and sea cliffs.

Find an image of the painting online and take a look at the following labels. See if you can link them to the correct part of the picture using the clues given. Discuss as a class where the labels should go on the painting.

1. The watch in this painting is known as a 'soft watch' because it looks as though it is melting. Dalí claimed that he was inspired by cheese melting in the sun when he painted them.
2. There are many ants on the orange clock. Ants were often included in Dalí's paintings as a symbol of decay.
3. The olive tree has short branches that have been cut.
4. A fly crawls across one of the watches and casts a shadow. To some, the shadow looks like a human figure.
5. Can you see the features of a person or creature in the painting, eyelashes perhaps? This abstract figure is said to be a self-portrait of Dalí himself.
6. Dalí was inspired by the landscape where he lived. He included the golden cliffs from his home in Catalonia in many of his works.



Questions

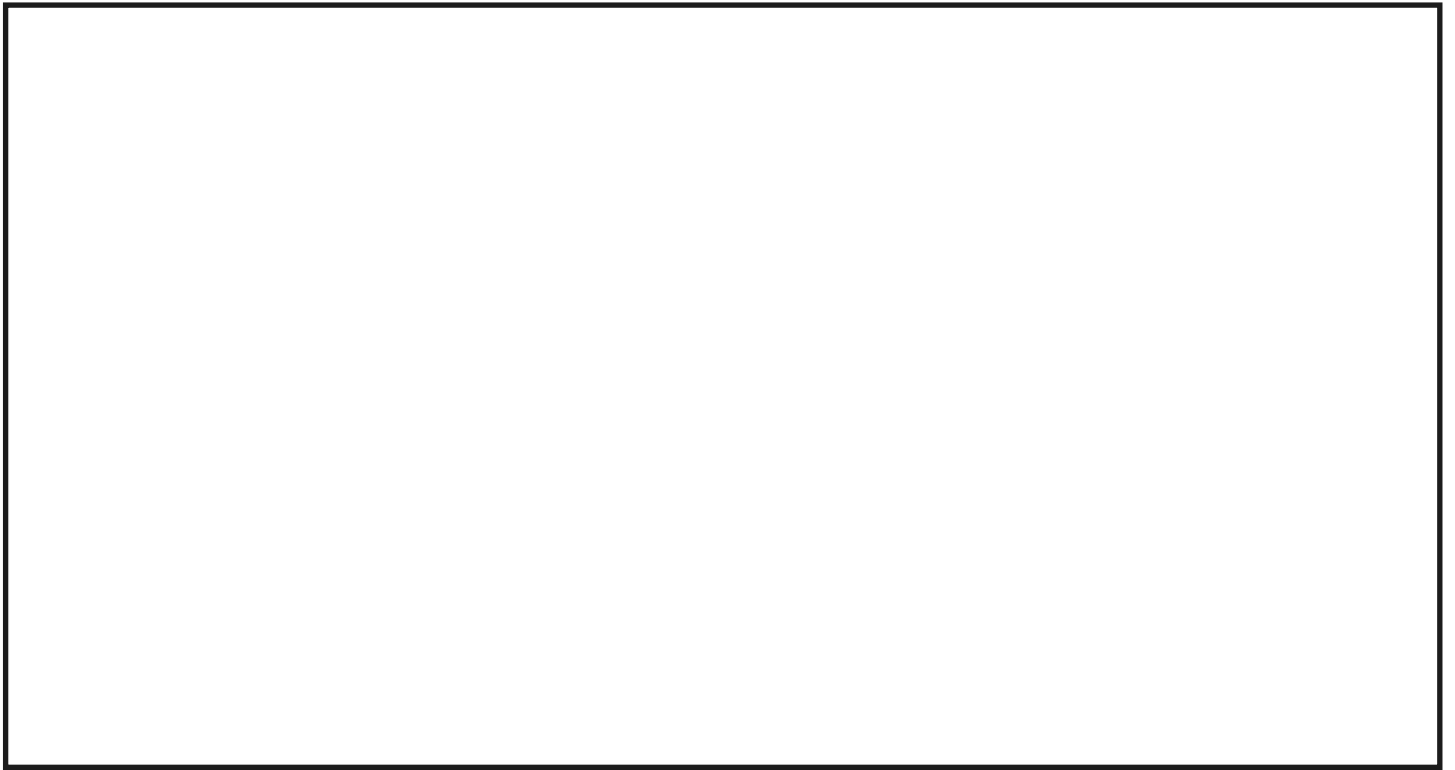
Do all of the clocks or watches show the same time? Why did Dalí choose to do this in the painting?

When you look at the painting what feeling do you get? Give reasons for your answer.

The artist included elements from his childhood to show us his most vivid memories. What are your most happy memories so far? Describe them as clearly as possible.

Draw Your Own

Now draw your own sketch of the painting using your memory only:



Extra challenge:

Use the Internet or your dictionary to find the meanings for the following art term:

Symbol:

Use the Internet to research three facts about the artist – Salvador Dalí.

1.

2.

3.
