

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Auguste Rodin

---

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/20\_\_\_\_

Per. \_\_\_\_

---

Use the word bank to fill in the blanks below:

Calais  
craftsman

Italy  
Paris

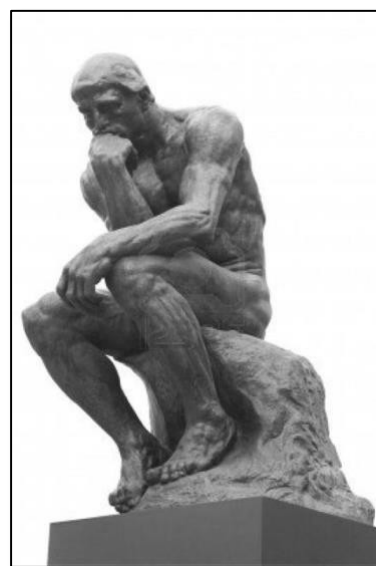
sculptor  
reputation

---

The French artist Auguste Rodin (1840 – 1917) had a profound influence on 20th-century sculpture. His works are distinguished by their stunning strength and realism. Auguste Rodin became a well-known \_\_\_\_\_ in his own lifetime. Despite humble beginnings, he developed through persistent work and by developing his own talent into a famous artist. Born into a working-class family, he made halting advances toward a career in art – in sculpture.

At the young age of 14 Auguste entered the Petite École, a school of decorative arts in \_\_\_\_\_, the capital of France. He applied three times to study at the renowned École des Beaux-Arts<sup>1</sup> but was rejected each time. Four years later, the death of his sister Marie so traumatized Rodin that he entered a sacred order. The father superior of the order recognized Rodin's talents and encouraged him to pursue his art. In 1858 he began to do decorative stonework to make his living, creating decorative sculptures and later working in construction.

Rodin's continued work as a \_\_\_\_\_ brought him to live in Belgium for a few years where he accumulated



*The Thinker*, c. 1878  
... one of Rodin's most famous works.

---

<sup>1</sup> School of Fine Arts

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

sculptural work and began to get notice as an artist, displaying some works at salons. Having saved enough money to travel, Rodin visited \_\_\_\_\_ for two months in 1875, where he was drawn to the work of Michelangelo. The work had a profound effect on his artistic direction. In 1884 he was commissioned to create a monument that became *The Burghers of Calais*.

This sculpture commemorates an event during the Hundred Years' War, when \_\_\_\_\_, a French port on the English Channel, surrendered to the English after an eleven-month siege. Six townspeople of Calais offered their lives to save their fellow citizens. *The Burghers of Calais* depicts the men as they are leaving for the king's camp, carrying keys to the town's gates and citadel to surrender after the siege of

**Sculpture, n.**

- the action or art of processing (as by carving, modeling, or welding) plastic or hard materials into works of art.



Calais.

By 1900, Rodin's artistic \_\_\_\_\_ was established. Further gaining exposure from a pavilion of his artwork set up near the 1900 World's Fair in Paris, he received requests to make busts of prominent people internationally, while his assistants at the atelier produced duplicates of his works.

---

**Questions ~**

1. Describe how long becoming a sculptor took for Rodin.
2. Which artist was most influential on Rodin's work?
3. Do you agree with the definition above of sculpture? Why? Why not?

**More ...**

- Write a paragraph exploring when an apprentice, for example, knows when he or she has become a full-fledged artist?
- What historical event from US history would deserve to be commemorated in sculpture - describe such a sculpture.