

**“The Great Wave Off Kanagawa.”  
Katsushika Hokusai, 1831. Color  
Woodcut.**

- The artist Hokusai himself is very famous for Japanese Art.
- A big theme throughout the picture is the power of nature over man. This is very contradictory to classic European and American art in which man tends to almost always dominate over nature.
- The wave literally has finger like extensions that are grabbing at the boat, about to consume it.
- The distant view of Mt. Fuji is seen through the surrounding waves almost in a form of contrast against the intense waters. The mountains strategic placement within the center of the picture, right below the crashing wave implies that Fuji is the main focus.
- The wave about to break adds an overall element of tension in the picture.
- The water is thrashing about in the sea storm however the men in their fishing boats calmly huddle downward waiting to ride out the wave. They submit to deadly power of the wave thus counterbalancing the intensity of the water with their own tranquility.
- Despite the sea storm, the weather around it seems unaffected, much like the boatmen.

