

Name _____

Willem de Kooning: Master of Abstract Expressionism

Open Ended Response Questions

1. Willem de Kooning's early life and artistic journey led him to New York City, where he became a central figure in the art world. Can you describe the key events and influences in his life that contributed to his artistic development and decision to settle in New York?
2. Abstract expressionism is characterized by spontaneity, emotional expression, and gestural brushwork. How did Willem de Kooning's paintings, such as "Excavation," exemplify these characteristics? Provide specific examples from his work to support your answer.
3. The "Woman" series by Willem de Kooning challenged traditional depictions of the female form. Describe the unique elements and artistic techniques he used in this series to create abstracted and confrontational female figures. How did these paintings impact the art world and society's perception of women in art?
4. Willem de Kooning's statement, "I have to change to stay the same," reflects his belief in artistic freedom and evolution. Explain the meaning of this statement in the context of his art career. How did he manage to continuously evolve as an artist while maintaining his distinctive artistic voice?

