
Masterpiece: *Flowering Arches, Giverny 1913* by Claude Monet

Pronounced: Klodd Moe-Nay

Keywords: Impressionism

Grade: 1st – 3rd

Activity: Reflection ... Trees
on Water

Begin with an Overview of the Impressionism Art Movement:

Impressionism was a style of painting that became popular over 100 years ago in France. Up to this point in the art world, artists painted people and scenery in a realistic manner. A famous 1872 painting by Claude Monet named "*Impression:*

Sunrise" was the inspiration for the name given by an art critic of this new form of painting: "Impressionism". Originally the term was meant as an insult, but Monet embraced the name. The art institutes of the day thought that the paintings looked unfinished, or childlike.



Characteristics of Impressionist paintings include: visible brush strokes, open composition, light depicting the effects of the passage of time, ordinary subject matter, movement, and unusual visual angles. As a technique, impressionists used dabs of paint (often straight out of a paint tube) to recreate the impression they saw of the light and the effects the light had on color. Due to this, most Impressionistic artists painted in the "*plein-air*", French for open air.

The important concept for our students is that the Impressionism movement was short lived but inspired other artists from all over, including America, to begin using this new technique.

Meet the Artist:

- Claude Monet was born in 1840 in Paris, France. His parents wanted him to grow up and work in their grocery store. He only wanted to paint; eventually he went to art school.

- He was fascinated with what different forms of light would do to colors. He noticed that the brighter the light, the more vibrant the color. He started to paint outdoors so that he could really see the vibrancy of the colors. *****At the time, artists exclusively painted indoors, in their studios.**
- He married twice (his first wife died) and had several children.
- It took him until he was 50 to sell enough paintings to buy his first home. Much of his life, he lived near poverty. This house he bought was in Giverny (Zhee-vare-ney). It was there that he painted “Les Arceaux Fleuris” (Lays-Arko Flurees) in 1913.
- **He loved painting water, since light reflected off of it.** He had a pond made and filled with water lilies in his back yard in Giverny.
- He started going blind in 1908 due to cataracts. After having medication, he was able to regain much of his sight. Some of his most memorable paintings were at the end of his life, his water lily paintings. His style actually started to border on abstract art. He died in 1926.

Discussion Questions:

- Is this painting realistic?
- Does it look like a child painted it?
- Why do you think Monet liked to paint outside?
- Often, he painted the same thing over and over again. Why do you think he did that? (Different lighting, time of day, different seasons’ - Monet like to study how color changed due to environment)
- What time of day do you think it was painted?
- How does the paint look like it was applied to the canvas? With small dabs or long strokes of the brush?
- What does the painting look like close up? Far away? Can you see brush strokes?
- Can you see the reflection?
- Have you seen this painting before? (It is in the Phoenix Art Museum)

Activity: “Fall Trees on Water”

Materials needed: 9”x12” white construction paper; brown tempera paint, watercolor sets; paper plates for brown paint; medium and large sized paintbrushes, small cups for water; newsprint to cover desks. Paper towel.

Process:

1. Cover desks with newsprint.
2. Provide each student with a piece of white construction paper, a watercolor set, medium and large paintbrush, and a paper plate with a small dab of brown tempera paint and water cup/towel. Students should sign their white paper.
3. Have students follow along as you demonstrate:
 - fold the construction paper in half along the 12" side (long side)
 - with the medium brush draw a line at the fold using any paint color.
4. The bottom half of the paper will be represent water. Paint with large sized brush with the blue watercolor. Note: remind students to not saturate their paper with watercolor as we need this to dry fairly quickly.
5. The top half of paper will represent the sky. Clean brush and Paint the sky whatever color they desire. Again, remind them not to saturate the paper with water. Paper towel can be used to lightly dab up excess moisture.
6. When both halves are fairly dry have students lightly crease the paper along the horizon lines that they painted separating the sky/ water. Unfold.
7. On the top side painted as the sky use the brown tempera to paint the tree trunks along the horizon line. An odd number looks best. 3 or 5 trees. Before the brown paint dries, re-fold the paper in half and lightly rub the paper so the tree trunks make an IMPRESSION on the bottom (blue water) portion. This creates the REFLECTION.
8. Open the paper and have students paint the fall leaves using a medium paint brush. Encourage them to use a dabbing technique with the brush to add the leaves on.
9. Before the leaves dry, fold the paper in half again to imprint the **Impression** of the leaves.
10. Repeat till desired appearance is achieved.



Photograph and Self Portraits of Claude Monet and other Paintings



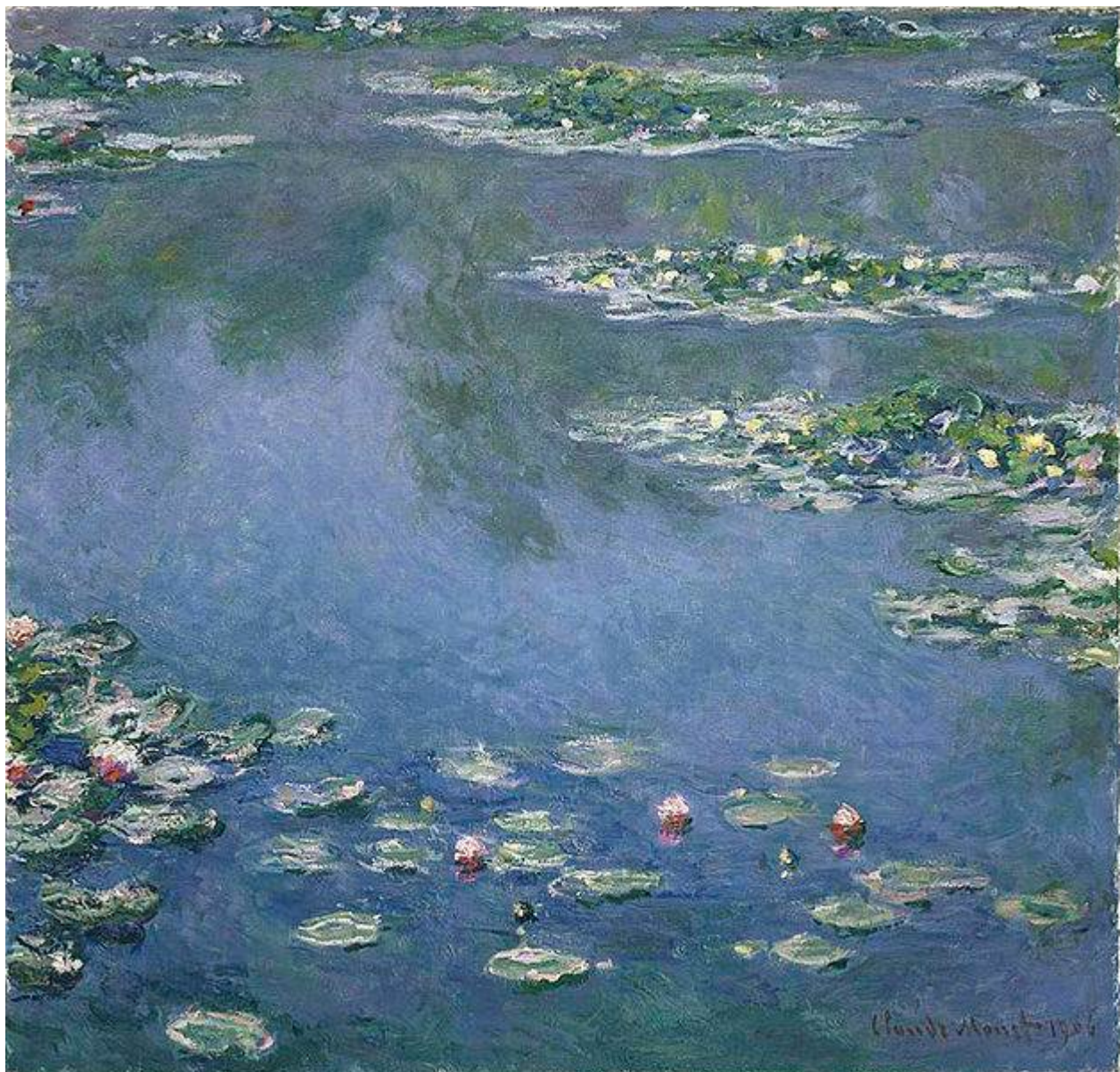
Haystacks, 1890-91



Flowering Garden at St. Adresse, 1866 Garden Path, 1902



Impression: Sunrise, 1872



Waterlilies, 1906

Brief info about the artist: Claude Monet was born in 1840 in Paris, France. His painting style was the inspiration for Impressionism. At the time, artists exclusively painted indoors, in their studios. Monet began painting outdoors so he could better see the vibrancy of the colors as they changed from sunrise to sunset and from one season to another.

Brief info about the project: Today your child painted an image by using dabs of color. The reflection was created by folding the paper in half to transfer some of the painted image onto the paper below.



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