

Activity 1: (Monday)

Today we will be learning about a particular painting style and artist (Claude Monet) and then you will be using watercolours (if you have any) and techniques inspired by the art we have looked at.

This is a picture of Monet's artwork 'The Water Lily pond' this one was made in 1905.



If you would like to you can watch a video clip on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9O1c6Not6U>

Introduction

So, this is Claude Monet's Water Lily Pond. He was a keen gardener and he created this pond in his garden in Giverny, France. He painted over twenty pictures of this scene and some of them are vast wall-size paintings. Water lilies are one of the most famous themes by this impressionist artist. He was fascinated by light dancing on the water and the reflections cast in the water...willows, reeds, clouds...things that move and change constantly. For Monet, the reflection was the subject of the painting - he tried to capture a fleeting moment, an impression, working outdoors, 'en plein air', a new idea in art.

Think about and answer these questions:

1. What colours dominate?
2. How does the picture make you feel?
3. How would you describe this picture?
4. What is it a picture of?

5. What season? How do you know?
 6. What wildlife would you expect to see if you visited this pond?
- Imagine...** you shrank to the size of a frog and you were at this pond in France...
7. What sounds would you hear? What would you smell?
 8. What would you see? Which lily pad would you choose to settle on for a while?
 9. Where do you think Monet was when he painted this?
 10. What would he be able to see, hear, smell, feel?
 11. Which colours did he use?

Note - He didn't use black – he felt it had a dulling effect. Instead he used complementary colours, e.g. dark reddy browns laid into greens in the darkest part of the water.

Activity 2 (Tuesday) – If you don't have water colours try using ordinary paints watered down a little. If you don't have any paint at all, just use pencil or wax crayons but be very careful when blending, make sure to use different amounts of pressure to make areas lighter and darker.

Watercolours. Colour mix shades of blue and green – use 2cm² paper, paint each square a different shade. Then shades of blue and lavender purple

Pause... (things to think about when creating your painting/artwork)

Look again at the painting.

Is there a horizon?

Not in this one. Even when there is it is usually very high up the painting so that the majority of the picture is the surface of the water and there is very little, if any, sky, just some foliage around the pond.

How does Monet give the feeling of distance? Perspective? [If you look closely - clusters of flowers are smaller in the distance].

Are there any places where there is no paint?

Monet uses layering of paint very effectively. The water is painted fairly thinly – sometimes the texture of the canvas can be seen. Other areas are painted over and over with many layers. The flowers are thick globs of paint that project from the surface and [in pictures where the bank is painted] plants tend to have lively swirls that suggest movement.

Activity 3 (Wednesday)

Use masking tape or bluetac (if possible) to fasten pieces of paper to the table top. Dampen the paper with water. Lightly apply washes of shades of blue, green, purple as desired, with a wide brush, to give effect of water.

Allow to dry a little – time to change water, tools and think about the composition of your own water lilies.

Next, take a finer brush and paint in the reeds, water lilies and weeping willow reflections – creating 'impressions' rather than exact shapes – and varying the shades.

Lastly, think about shadows - under the lily pads. Leave to dry.

Questions to end Activity 3:

1. Who is Claude Monet?
2. What is Impressionism?
3. What does painting '*en plein air*' mean?

How did you get on today? What techniques have you learned?

Activity 4 and 5 (Thursday and Friday)

If you have time and the resources

Another idea is a 3D response to Monet's artwork:



Look at some real water lilies [pictures are fine!] to see the density of the petals and how the flowers are formed and shaped. Use clay or paper to create your water lilies.

You can do this in your own way or you can use the guidance below to help you.

Start by rolling out a slab of clay (or something similar) and cut out your lily pad shape, remember that the size and shape is up to you and this doesn't need to be perfect. Using tools (this could be something as simple as a pencil if you don't have proper tools), create the veins in the lily pad or add texture to the leaf. To start the flower, cut out a many-pointed star shape. Scratch to attach the centre of the star to the lily pad, and then squeeze the points of the star thinner with your fingers, it should start to resemble a flower at this point. Scratch the centre of the star and start to add on more petals. Roll small coils of clay (or whichever material you are using) and then flatten them into petals, or roll out a thin slab and then cut them out. Keep layering the petals until the lily is filled, making sure to scratch-to-attach each one on. You can also add on frogs, beetles, turtles, dragonflies...whatever swampy creature you like. Leave to dry and then paint when ready.

REMEMBER TO UPLOAD ANY PICTURES OF YOUR ARTWORK TO FROG SO THAT YOUR TEACHER CAN SEE YOUR AMAAZING WORK!