



Adventures in Art

Claude Monet (1840-1926)

I. Introduction

- Today, we are going to learn about a famous painter named Claude Monet. He lived in France almost 200 years ago! Here is a picture of Monet. (Show photograph)
- He created beautiful paintings full of color and light.
- We will look at his paintings, and then create our own art like Claude Monet's.

Let's start with a story, so that we can learn a little bit about Monet's paintings.

II. Read Aloud - "Monet's Impressions" by The Metropolitan Museum of Art

- In this book, you will see some of the paintings Monet made.
- Take a good look and think about how they make you feel.
- What did you notice about the types of things Monet painted?
 - Were they pictures of things that are outside or inside?
 - Monet liked to paint what he saw outside. In fact, he liked to go outside to paint. We call this painting "**en plein air**".

****Alternate book: Online Read Aloud of "Katie and the Waterlily Pond" by James Mayhew: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IEDh0e5Aydo>***

III. Discussion

- Here is a picture of Monet outside in his garden. He was a wonderful gardener who planted and painted lots of flowers. He even planted lily ponds (point to them). He created many paintings of his lily ponds. Let's look at some.



- (Show Japanese Footbridge). Do you recognize this bridge and garden from the photo we just looked at? This is the painting that Monet made of his bridge and garden. Does it look the same to you? How? Does it look different? How?
 - If you look at the painting up close, you will notice that it looks fuzzy. If you look at it from a distance, it looks more clear. This is what **Impressionist** paintings are all about. Monet was an **Impressionist** painter. **What does this mean?**
 - Let's take a close look again. What do you notice about the brush strokes? Are they long or short? Do you think he painted quickly or slowly?
 - What do you notice about the colors? Are there lots of colors, or just a few colors?
 - Monet and the Impressionists loved to paint things they saw outside in nature.
 - They created this effect, of things looking fuzzy up close and more clear from far away, by using very small, quick brush strokes, rather than long, solid lines. They also created this effect using lots of different colors, which they blended together.
 - Why would they do this? Monet and the Impressionists used small brush strokes and blended colors to give an "impression" or **feeling** about the things they were painting.
- How does this painting make YOU feel? (happy, calm, peaceful, etc)
 - What is it about this painting that makes you feel this way?
- What colors do you see?
- What season do you think it is? Why?
- What do you think the weather is like? Warm, cool? Sunny, cloudy?
- What time of day do you think it is? Why?
 - Do you see the light reflecting on the water? What color paint did Monet use to paint the light?
- Have you ever been to a place like this? What do you imagine it would be like?
 - What would it smell like?
 - What sounds would you hear? Would it be loud or quiet?
 - What animals or insects would you see there?
 - What would the water feel like? The grass and plants?



- What would you want to do in a garden like this? Read a book? Have a picnic? Take a nap? Play with your friends?
- What else do you see in this garden? Can you find flowers? Water? Trees? A bridge? Hills? The sun, sky, etc.
- What do you wonder about this painting? Why would Monet want to paint something like this? Would you want to paint something like this?
- Do you like this painting? Would you hang it in your room? What would you imagine when you looked at it?

Art Activity

Now that we've had a chance to learn about Monet and his paintings, let's use what we've learned to create our own masterpieces in his style.

<http://thebirdfeednyc.com/2016/07/18/monet-inspired-water-lily-pond-art-project-for-kids/>





Student Materials:

a large green paper plate, green lily pads, pink tissue squares, crayons (green & white)
a glue stick, sponge brushes, paint (purple, dark blue, light blue, green & white)

Teacher Materials: scissors

Teacher Prep: -cut lily pads out of green paper in a variety of sizes
-cut small squares of pink tissue paper (I used 1" and 2" squares)

Project Intro:

Claude Monet was an impressionist painter from Paris, France. Impressionism is a 19th century art movement. (ask kids to try to say "Impressionism") This movement was actually named after one of Monet's paintings, *Impression, Sunrise!* Small, thin brushstrokes are one of the main characteristics of these paintings. Look at Monet's works of art. What do kids see? Monet's most famous series of paintings is *Water Lilies*, which depicts Monet's garden in France. There are approximately 250 paintings in this series! Today, we're going to create our own water lily ponds using the technique of Impressionist painters.

Pass out paper plates and one brush per child. Let's start by painting small, thin brushstrokes in purple. Leave the rim paint-free so kids can handle while painting!

Step 1 (purple paint): Using bouncing motion, paint small thin brushstrokes in purple.





Now, repeat the same painting technique in dark blue.

Step 2 (dark blue paint): Using bouncing motion, paint small thin brushstrokes in dark blue.



Next, paint with light blue! Try to fill in the empty spaces on the plate while you paint.

Step 3 (light blue paint): Using bouncing motion, paint small thin brushstrokes, filling in with light blue.





Now, let's create the reflection of a few trees in the water.

Step 4 (green paint): Using bouncing motion, create a few spots of green in the water.



Now, let's add a few spots of white to create reflecting light!

Step 5 (white paint): Using bouncing motion, create a few spots of white in the water.





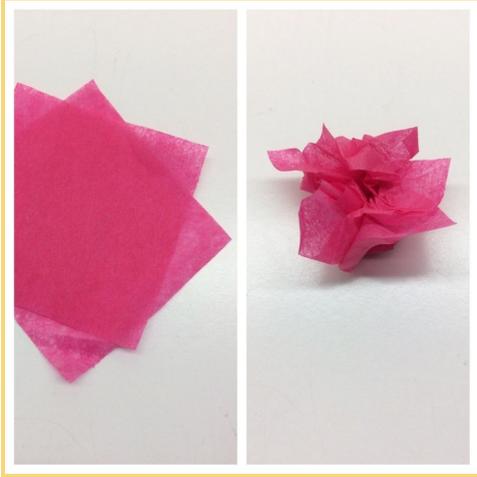
Next, we each need 3 lily pads each. Pass out 3 lily pads per child. (count 1, 2, 3 for each) Ask kids, what color are the lily pads? Let's use green, light green and white crayons to create texture on each lily pad.

Step 6 (crayons on lily pads): Color small spots in green, light green and white (similar to painting technique) on each lily pad!



Now we need to create the flowers! Hold up a square of tissue paper. Ask kids to identify the shape and color. For each flower, we need 2 square of tissue paper. So...we need 6 squares each! Count 1-6 as you pass out.

Step 7 (tissue flowers): Place one square on top of another and pinch from center, wrinkling sides to make "petals". Create 3 water lilies.



Pass out glue sticks and glue flowers to lily pads!

Step 8 (flowers on lily pads): Glue one flower on each lily pad.



Last step- time to glue the lily pads on the water!

Step 9 (lily pads on water): Glue lily pads in the water.



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