



Art History

English Lessons

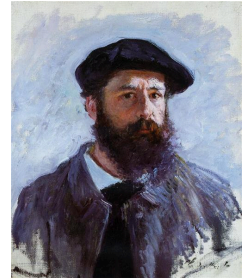


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Monet and Impressionism

Claude Monet, born on November 14, 1840, in Paris, France, was a pivotal figure in the art movement known as Impressionism. Monet's work and ideas revolutionized how art is perceived and created. His paintings are celebrated for their innovative approach to capturing light and color.



Impressionism emerged in the late 19th century as a reaction against the strict rules of academic painting. Unlike traditional art that focused on detailed, realistic representations, Impressionists like Monet aimed to capture fleeting moments and the effects of light. They used loose brushstrokes and bright, vibrant colors to convey the overall feeling of a scene rather than its precise details.

One of Monet's most famous series is his *Water Lilies* paintings. Over the years, Monet painted his water lily garden at Giverny multiple times, each time from different angles and at various times of day. This series exemplifies his commitment to exploring the changing qualities of light and its impact on color. Monet's technique involved applying paint in short, quick strokes, which allowed him to create a sense of movement and atmosphere. His use of color was influenced by the natural light and the reflections in the water, making each painting a unique impression of the scene.

Another notable work is *Impression, Sunrise* (1872), from which the Impressionist movement got its name. This painting depicts the port of Le Havre at sunrise, with a focus on the interplay of light and color. The loose brushwork and emphasis on the effects of light rather than detailed accuracy led a critic to use the term "Impressionism" to describe Monet's work, and the name stuck.

Monet's approach to painting was influenced by his fascination with how light changes throughout the day and the seasons. He often painted outdoors, directly observing the natural environment, which was a significant shift from studio-based work. This method allowed him to capture the immediacy and freshness of the moment.

Despite initial criticism from traditionalists, Monet's work gained recognition and had a lasting impact on the art world. His innovative techniques laid the groundwork for modern art and inspired countless artists. Claude Monet passed away on December 5, 1926, but his legacy endures through his groundbreaking contributions to art and his role in shaping the Impressionist movement.





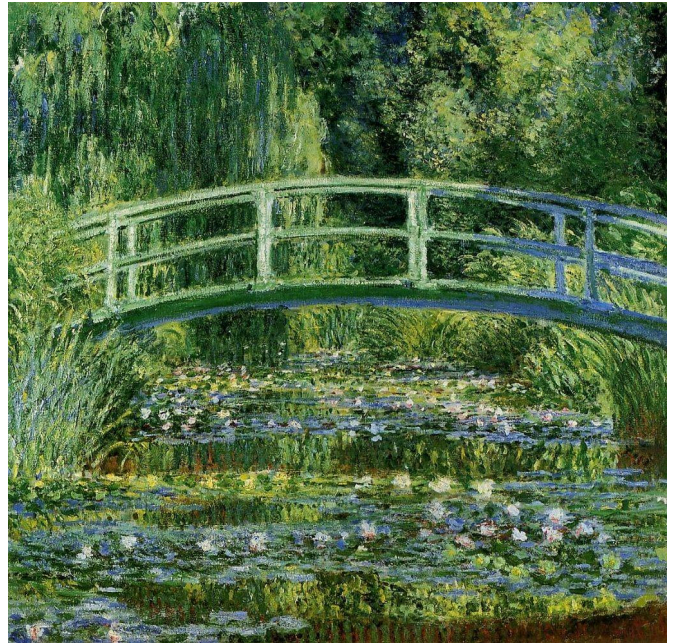
After reading the text carefully, answer the questions:

1. **What was the main goal of the Impressionist movement?**
 - a) To create highly detailed and realistic paintings
 - b) To capture fleeting moments and the effects of light
 - c) To focus on historical and mythological themes
 - d) To use dark and muted colors for dramatic effect
2. **What technique did Monet use in his *Water Lilies* series?**
 - a) Detailed line work and shading
 - b) Loose brushstrokes and vibrant colors
 - c) Strictly monochromatic color schemes
 - d) Heavy impasto and thick paint application
3. **Why did Monet paint the same scene at different times of the day?**
 - a) To explore changes in the landscape
 - b) To show variations in the quality of light
 - c) To create a series of identical images
 - d) To experiment with different artistic styles
4. **What does the painting *Impression, Sunrise* depict?**
 - a) A night scene in Paris
 - b) The port of Le Havre at sunset
 - c) The port of Le Havre at sunrise
 - d) A rainy day in Giverny
5. **How did the term "Impressionism" originate?**
 - a) From a critic's review of Monet's *Water Lilies*
 - b) From Monet's painting *Impression, Sunrise*
 - c) From Monet's use of dark and muted colors
 - d) From the Impressionist exhibitions held in Paris
6. **Where did Monet paint his famous *Water Lilies* series?**
 - a) At the Louvre Museum
 - b) In his studio in Paris
 - c) At his garden in Giverny
 - d) In the countryside of Normandy
7. **What impact did Claude Monet's work have on the art world?**
 - a) It led to the revival of traditional painting techniques
 - b) It inspired the development of modern art and influenced many artists
 - c) It caused a decline in the popularity of abstract art
 - d) It focused solely on historical and mythological subjects





These are three of the most famous paintings by Monet and the style called “Impressionism”. Which is your favourite one and why? Write a paragraph about the impact this painting has on you and your feelings:



Answers for the multiple choice activity:

1. b) To capture fleeting moments and the effects of light
2. b) Loose brushstrokes and vibrant colors
3. b) To show variations in the quality of light
4. c) The port of Le Havre at sunrise
5. b) From Monet's painting *Impression, Sunrise*
6. c) At his garden in Giverny
7. b) It inspired the development of modern art and influenced many artists



For more ideas on how to use masterpieces of Art to teach critical thinking, you can read my blog post here:

<https://www.ruthlessteacher.com/how-to-use-works-of-arts-to-teach-critical-thinking/>

And about the use of images in the language classroom, another of my blog posts here:

<https://www.ruthlessteacher.com/the-use-of-images-in-language-learning/>

I have made a pdf with a set of questions that I use a lot with my students when we study all types of images, you can download it here:

<https://www.ruthlessteacher.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Questions-about-images-in-class.pdf>





Painter

[Claude Monet](#) was in almost every sense the founder of French Impressionist painting, the term itself coming from one of his paintings, *Impression, Sunrise*. As a child, his father wanted him to go into the grocery business, but his heart was in the profession of artistry, and at age 11, he entered Le Havre secondary school of the arts. During his stay at the secondary school, he was known for the caricatures he would draw for the locals for ten to twenty francs each. Five years later, he met artist Eugene Boudin, who taught him the techniques of “en plein air” painting and became his mentor. At the age of 16, Monet left school for Paris, where instead of studying the great artworks of the masters, he sat by the window and painted what he saw outside..(information from Wikiart).

Paintings

You can see Monet's work online here:

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/claude-monet/all-works#!#filterName:all-paintings-chronologically.resultType:masonry>

The first painting is called “*Woman with a Parasol - Madame Monet and Her Son*” (1875) and you can see it in the National Gallery of Art in Washington:

<https://www.nga.gov/collection/art-object-page.61379.html>

The second painting is called “*Water Lilies and the Japanese bridge, (1897–99)*

and you can see it in Princeton University Art Museum”. You can learn more about it and recreate it digitally:

<https://artmuseum.princeton.edu/learn/art-making/art-families/monets-water-lilies>

You can see more paintings with water lilies in the Orangerie Museum in Paris:

<https://www.musee-orangerie.fr/en/node/197502>

The third painting is called “*Impression, Sunrise*” (1872) and you can see it in the “Musée Marmottan Monet” in Paris:

<https://www.marmottan.fr/en/>



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For any questions you may have you can message me at info@ruthlessteacher.com

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