

Year 5 Art lesson
Claude Monet
The Water Lily Pond

Objectives(s)

- investigate the artwork of Claude Monet
- learn about the ideas of Impressionism
- engage in watercolour work in response to Monet's paintings of water lilies

Starter

Today we will be learning about a particular painting style and artist.

Display picture of The Water Lily pond 1904, or similar, this one is 1905



Does anyone know who painted this?

Optional - watch the clip about Monet <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.

What colours dominate?

How does the picture make you feel?

How would you describe this picture?

What is it a picture of?

What season? How do you know?

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...

What sounds would you hear? What would you smell?

What would you see? Which lily pad would you choose to settle on for a while?

Where was Monet when he painted this?

What would he be able to see, hear, smell, feel?

Which colours did he use? [yellows, pinks, lavenders, greens, blues, and silver-white]

NB. 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

Watercolours or pencil crayons.

Can you have a go at creating your own Water Lily Pond in the style of Monet?

Colour mix shades of blue and green.

Then shades of blue and lavender purple.

Think about:

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? [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.