

Zara's Gallery: The Magic of Claude Monet

Step into the light and paint the world as you see it!

- Claude Monet was a leader of a movement called Impressionism, where artists focused on capturing the feeling of a scene rather than every tiny detail.
- Monet often painted 'en plein air', which is a French phrase meaning he painted outdoors so he could watch how the sunlight changed the colours on his canvas.
- Instead of mixing paints smoothly, Monet used short, quick brushstrokes of bright colour that seem to shimmer and move when you look at them from a distance.
- He was fascinated by reflections on water, often painting the way the sky and clouds appeared in the surface of ponds and rivers.
- Monet would often paint the same subject many times, such as haystacks or cathedrals, at different times of the day to show how light changes the mood of a picture.

Did you know? Did you know? Claude Monet loved his garden in Giverny so much that he built a special Japanese-style wooden bridge over his water lily pond. He painted this same bridge and those beautiful lilies over 250 times to see how the changing light of the sun altered their colours!

Key vocabulary: Impressionism · Brushstrokes · Landscape · Light · Pigment · Reflections