

Zara's Impressionist Garden Adventure

Learning objective: To understand the techniques of Claude Monet, such as light, colour, and short brushstrokes, and apply them to a creative task.

Zara the zebra is fascinated by how Claude Monet captured the changing light in his garden. To create an Impressionist-style painting, you must use the 'broken colour' technique—this means using short, quick brushstrokes of different colours side-by-side rather than blending them together. Look at the list of elements below and decide which ones would best help you capture the feeling of a bright, sunny day at Giverny. Then, follow the drawing prompt to create your own masterpiece.

Word bank: Light · Brushstrokes · Texture · Reflection · Vibrant · Landscape · Pond

1. Monet often painted the same scene at different times of the day. Why do you think he did this? (2 marks)

2. Explain why Impressionist artists used short, quick brushstrokes instead of smooth, blended lines. (2 marks)

3. If you were painting a garden pond like Monet, how would you show that the water is reflecting the sky? (2 marks)

4. Look at your colour choices. Which two colours could you place next to each other to make your 'sunlight' look more vibrant? (1 mark)

5. True or False: Monet always painted his pictures with perfectly smooth, invisible brushstrokes. Explain your answer. (2 marks)

Draw: Using a piece of paper, draw a garden scene. Instead of drawing solid outlines, use short, quick dashes of colour to build up the shapes of flowers, trees, and water. Focus on how the sunlight hits the leaves and the water. Try to use at least three different shades of one colour (for example, three types of green) to show light and shadow.



Extension challenge: Research Monet's 'Water Lilies' series. Imagine you are standing on his famous Japanese bridge. Write a short poem describing the sounds and colours you see, using descriptive adjectives to match his artistic style.