

Art Assessment: The Impressionist World of Claude Monet

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge of Claude Monet's techniques, use of colour, and the Impressionist movement.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of art history and techniques to provide detailed answers. Ensure your writing is clear and makes use of artistic vocabulary.

Claude Monet was a French artist who helped found the Impressionist movement. He was fascinated by how light changed the appearance of a landscape at different times of the day. Instead of using smooth, blended paint, he used short, thick, and rapid brushstrokes to capture the 'impression' of a scene rather than every tiny detail. He often painted outdoors, a method known as 'en plein air', to witness the shifting colours of nature firsthand.

Word bank: Impressionism · Brushstrokes · Atmosphere · Complementary · Light · Plein air · Texture · Vibrant

1. Define the term 'en plein air' and explain why Monet preferred this method of painting. (2 marks)

2. Describe the appearance of Monet's brushstrokes. How do they differ from the style of traditional, realistic painting? (3 marks)

3. Monet often painted the same subject, such as his garden or a cathedral, at different times of the day. Why did he do this? Refer to the role of light in your answer. (4 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the effect of using 'vibrant' colours versus 'muted' colours in an Impressionist painting. How does this change the mood for the viewer? (4 marks)

5. Justify your answer: If you were tasked with recreating a Monet-style painting of your school playground, which time of day would you choose to capture the most interesting light? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

6. Extended Writing Task: Zara the zebra is creating a gallery exhibition about light and atmosphere. Write a short paragraph (5-6 sentences) explaining how Monet's techniques changed the way people looked at art. Use at least four words from the word bank in your response. (5 marks)

7. What might happen to the 'impression' of a painting if an artist spent too much time adding precise, tiny details instead of focusing on the overall light and colour? (4 marks)

Draw: Using the style of Monet, draw a simple scene from your local park. Focus on using short, quick marks to show how the sunlight hits the leaves or the water. Do not worry about fine outlines; focus on the colour and the movement of light.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Research the 'Rouen Cathedral' series by Monet. Can you identify two specific differences in the light between his morning and evening studies? Write a short analysis for your teacher.