

Zara's Impressionist Masterpiece Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the techniques of Claude Monet, specifically his focus on light, colour, and 'en plein air' painting.

Zara the Zebra is inspired by the Impressionist artist Claude Monet. She wants to paint a garden scene, but she needs your help to apply Monet's techniques. Read the techniques below and complete the tasks to show how you would create an Impressionist painting. Use the word bank to help you describe the artistic choices.

Word bank: brushstrokes · vibrant · reflection · atmosphere · texture · en plein air · pigment · shimmering

1. Monet often painted 'en plein air'. Explain why painting outside might change the way an artist chooses their colours compared to painting in a dark studio. (2 marks)

2. Monet used short, thick 'broken' brushstrokes rather than smooth, blended lines. Justify why this technique makes his paintings look like they are 'shimmering' or moving. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast: How does a painting of a water lily pond at sunrise differ from one painted at midday? Consider the light and colour palette. (2 marks)

4. If you were painting a garden scene, describe how you would use colour to show that the sun is setting behind the trees. (2 marks)

5. What might happen if Monet had decided to outline all his subjects in thick black ink? How would this change the viewer's experience of the atmosphere? (2 marks)

6. Explain why Monet often painted the same subject (like haystacks or a cathedral) at different times of the day. What was he trying to capture? (2 marks)

Draw: Using a piece of paper, create a garden scene inspired by Monet. Do not use black outlines. Use tiny, rapid dabs of vibrant colour to build up the texture of flowers and water, focusing on how the light hits the objects.



Extension challenge: Research Monet's 'Water Lilies' series. Create a short poem in the style of Leo the Lion that describes the way the light dances on the water, using at least three words from the word bank.