

Zara's Gallery: The Magic of Claude Monet

Step into the light! Join Zara the zebra as we paint the world with shimmering colours and bold brushstrokes.

- Claude Monet was a leader of the Impressionist movement, which focused on capturing a 'first impression' of a scene rather than perfect detail.
- Instead of mixing paint thoroughly, Monet often placed short, thick strokes of different colours side-by-side so they appear to blend when viewed from a distance.
- Monet spent many years in his beautiful garden in Giverny, France, which featured a famous Japanese-style bridge and a pond full of water lilies.
- He rarely used black paint, preferring to mix dark colours to create shadows, believing that shadows are filled with reflected light.
- By painting 'en plein air' (outdoors), Monet could observe the natural light shift across his canvas in real-time.

Did you know? Did you know? Claude Monet often painted the same scene, like the facade of Rouen Cathedral or his famous water lilies, at different times of the day. He wanted to capture exactly how the changing sunlight altered the colours of the world!

Key vocabulary: Impressionism · Brushstrokes · Landscape · Pigment · Light · Atmosphere · Reflection