

Zara's Impressionist Inspiration: A Monet Quiz

Learning objective: To understand the artistic style, techniques, and subjects of Claude Monet, a pioneer of Impressionism.

Join Zara the Zebra as we explore the colourful world of Claude Monet. Read the passage carefully and answer the ten questions below to test your art knowledge!

Claude Monet was a famous French artist and a founder of the Impressionist movement. He was fascinated by how light changed the appearance of a scene throughout the day. Instead of painting smooth, realistic images, he used short, thick brushstrokes to capture the 'impression' of a moment. He often painted 'en plein air', which means outdoors. In his later years, he lived in a beautiful house in Giverny, where he created a famous water garden. He painted many series of the same subject, such as haystacks or water lilies, to show how different weather and times of day affected the colours and shadows.

Word bank: Impressionism · Brushstrokes · Light · Giverny · Reflections · En plein air · Series

1. What does the term 'en plein air' mean? A) Painting in a studio, B) Painting outdoors*, C) Painting at night, D) Painting with watercolours (1 mark)

2. True or False: Monet preferred to paint smooth, blended surfaces with no visible brushstrokes. (1 mark)

3. Which famous water plant did Monet paint repeatedly in his garden at Giverny? (1 mark)

4. Why did Monet paint the same subject many times? A) He ran out of ideas, B) To show how light changes colours*, C) Because he liked to sell them cheaply, D) To practice drawing shapes (1 mark)

5. Monet was a founder of which artistic movement? (One word answer) (1 mark)

6. What did Monet focus on capturing most in his paintings? A) Perfect portraits, B) The quality of light*, C) Dark, moody shadows, D) Precise architectural lines (1 mark)

7. True or False: Monet lived in a house with a beautiful water garden in Giverny. (1 mark)

8. What word describes the short, thick marks Monet made on the canvas? (1 mark)

9. Which of these would you most likely see in a Monet painting? A) A busy city motorway, B) A reflection of a willow tree in a pond*, C) A detailed diagram of a machine, D) A flat, single-coloured background (1 mark)

10. True or False: Monet was interested in how the weather affected the look of a scene. (1 mark)

Draw: Zara the Zebra wants you to paint like Monet! Find a window or go outside and paint a view of a tree or a garden. Use quick, short brushstrokes and focus on how the light is hitting your subject. Use bright, layered colours instead of mixing them perfectly on your palette.



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenges: 1. Explain why Monet chose to paint the same subject at different times of the day. 2. Compare and contrast a 'realistic' painting with an 'Impressionist' painting; how do they make the viewer feel differently? 3. Justify your answer: Why is light considered the most important 'subject' in Monet's work? 4. What might happen if Monet had painted his water lilies inside a dark room instead of outside? 5. If you were to create a 'series' of paintings like Monet, what subject would you choose and why? 6. Evaluate: Does the lack of fine detail in Impressionist art make it less accurate, or does it capture the 'truth' of a moment better? Justify your view.