

Artist Study: Claude Monet with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To analyse the artistic style of Claude Monet and reflect on the Impressionist movement.

Zara the Zebra loves finding patterns and colours in nature, just like the famous artist Claude Monet! Use this fact-file template to record what you have learned about his life and his unique style of painting. Research his famous works, such as his garden paintings or his series on Rouen Cathedral, to help you fill in the sections below.

Word bank: Impressionism · Brushstrokes · Light · Landscape · En plein air · Reflections · Atmosphere · Pigment

1. The Artist's Life: Write a brief biography of Claude Monet, including where he lived and why he is considered a founder of the Impressionist movement. (3 marks)

2. Technique Focus: Describe how Monet used 'en plein air' (painting outdoors) to capture the effects of light and changing seasons in his work. (2 marks)

3. Colour and Texture: Explain how Monet used short, thick brushstrokes and vibrant colours to create an 'impression' of a scene rather than a detailed photograph. (2 marks)

4. Personal Reflection: Which of Monet's paintings is your favourite and why does the way he uses colour make you feel a certain way? (2 marks)

5. Artistic Application: If you were to paint a local landscape using Monet's style, what time of day would you choose and what colours would you emphasise to show the light? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Try to recreate a small section of a famous Monet painting using only dots or short, quick dashes of colour. Does it look different when you stand closer to your drawing compared to when you stand further away?