

Zara's Impressionist Art Investigation

Learning objective: To analyse the artistic techniques of Claude Monet and evaluate the impact of light and colour on his work.

Use this fact-file template to explore the work of Claude Monet. Study one of his famous paintings, such as 'Water Lilies' or 'Impression, Sunrise'. Research his use of 'en plein air' techniques and broken colour, then fill in the boxes below to demonstrate your understanding.

Word bank: Impressionism · en plein air · brushstrokes · pigment · light · atmosphere · landscape · canvas

1. Identify the primary colours used in your chosen painting and explain how they interact to create a specific mood or time of day. (3 marks)

2. Describe Monet's technique of using short, visible brushstrokes. Why did he choose this method instead of blending colours perfectly? (3 marks)

3. Explain why Monet preferred to paint 'en plein air' (outdoors). How does this affect the accuracy of his depiction of natural light? (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast: How does Monet's representation of a garden differ from a realistic photograph of the same location? (4 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Does Monet's work succeed in capturing a 'fleeting moment' in time? Provide evidence from the artwork to support your view. (4 marks)

6. What might happen to the 'impression' of the painting if Monet had used dark, solid outlines around every object instead of soft edges? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Creative Challenge: Imagine you are Zara the zebra standing in Monet's garden at Giverny. Write a short poem or descriptive paragraph explaining how the changing light throughout the day transforms the colours of the water lilies. Then, sketch a small scene using only dots or dashes of colour to replicate the Impressionist style.