

Capturing Light with Zara: An Impressionist Study

Learning objective: To understand the techniques of Claude Monet and the Impressionist movement, focusing on light, colour, and brushwork.

Zara the zebra has been studying the paintings of Claude Monet. She has noticed that Impressionists use short, quick brushstrokes and vibrant colours to capture how light changes. Look at the list of techniques below and match them to the correct description of how Monet created his masterpieces. Write the correct term next to each definition.

Word bank: Impressionism · En plein air · Primary colours · Broken colour · Subjective light

1. 1. The method of painting outdoors to observe natural light directly. (Clue: It means 'in the open air' in French.) (2 marks)

2. 2. The style of art that focuses on capturing a fleeting moment rather than precise detail. (2 marks)

3. 3. The technique of placing small dabs of different colours side-by-side on the canvas so the viewer's eye 'mixes' them. (2 marks)

4. 4. Why did Monet paint the same scene, like his haystacks or water lilies, at different times of the day? (2 marks)

5. 5. Describe how Monet's brushstrokes look compared to a very detailed, realistic portrait. (2 marks)

Draw: Zara wants you to be an Impressionist! Choose a view from your window or a corner of your classroom. Draw it using only short, quick, dash-like strokes of your pencil or crayon. Focus on how the light hits the objects rather than drawing sharp outlines.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an artist at a market stall selling your paintings. If a small canvas costs £12.50 and a large canvas costs £25.75, how much would a customer pay if they bought two small canvases and one large one? Show your calculation.