Zara’s Garden Gallery: Painting Like Monet

Learning objective: To explore the style of Impressionist artist Claude Monet by observing light, colour, and nature.

Zara the Zebra loves to look at gardens! Monet was an artist who painted outside so he could see how the sun changed the colours of the flowers and the water. Look at the questions below to help you think like an artist. Then, use your paints to create your own 'Impressionist' garden by using short, quick brushstrokes instead of long lines.

Word bank: Impressionist · Light · Brushstrokes · Garden · Colour · Reflection

1. Monet liked to paint outside. If you were painting a garden, would you paint it on a sunny day or a rainy day? Why? (2 marks)

2. Look at the water in a pond. Can you see the sky in the reflection? What colour is the sky? (2 marks)

3. Monet used tiny, quick dots of paint. If you use lots of different colours close together, what happens when you step back? (2 marks)

4. If a pack of special painting brushes costs £4 and a set of paints costs £5, how much would you need to pay in total to be an artist? (2 marks)

5. Monet loved painting water lilies. Can you name another flower you might find in a beautiful garden? (2 marks)

Draw: Use your paintbrush to make lots of little 'dabs' or 'dots' of paint on your paper. Don't worry about drawing perfect lines! Try to paint a pond with flowers floating on top, just like Zara's favourite paintings.

Extension challenge: Go outside into your school garden or a park. Find one object, like a leaf or a flower, and try to draw it using only small, quick marks instead of one long outline.