Zara’s Impressionist Garden

Learning objective: To explore the art of Claude Monet by observing how light and colour create patterns in nature.

Today, we are going to paint like Claude Monet! Monet loved to paint outside and used small, quick dabs of colour to show how sunlight hits the water and flowers. Look at your paper and think about the colours you see in a garden. Use your crayons or paint to make little dots and short lines to fill your scene.

Draw: Create a scene inspired by a pond garden. Use 'dabbing' motions with your drawing tool to create texture, rather than long, smooth lines. Include a curved bridge at the top, round lily pads floating on the water, and colourful flower shapes along the banks. Focus on using light and dark shades of the same colour to show sunlight.

Label words: water · lily pad · flower · bridge · sunlight · reflection

Steps:

1. Step 1: Draw a gentle, curved line across the middle of your page to be the bridge. What colour will your bridge be?
2. Step 2: Use your favourite colours to make little dots of paint under the bridge to show the water. Why did you choose these colours?
3. Step 3: Draw some round lily pads floating on the water. How many lily pads can you count?

4. Step 4: Add bright dabs of colour around the edges to look like flowers. Can you name two colours you used?

5. Step 5: Look at your finished picture. Point to the 'reflection' of the bridge in the water. Is it the same colour as the bridge?