

Year 5 Art Assessment: The Impressionist Vision of Claude Monet

Learning objective: To evaluate understanding of Claude Monet's techniques, use of colour theory, and the historical impact of the Impressionist movement.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of art history and technique to provide detailed answers. Ensure your written responses are thoughtful and demonstrate a deep understanding of the Impressionist style.

Claude Monet was a pioneer of the Impressionist movement. He famously rejected the traditional, smooth painting style of his time in favour of capturing the 'impression' of a moment. He often worked 'en plein air' (outdoors) to observe how natural light altered the appearance of landscapes throughout the day. By using short, thick, and rapid brushstrokes, Monet focused on colour and light rather than precise detail, leaving the viewer to complete the image in their own mind.

Word bank: Impressionism · Brushstrokes · Light · En plein air · Atmosphere · Palette · Complementary · Texture

1. Define the term 'en plein air' and explain why Monet preferred this method of working. (2 marks)

2. Describe the typical brushstroke technique used by Monet. How does this technique differ from the art produced by previous classical painters? (3 marks)

3. Monet painted the same subjects, such as his water lilies or haystacks, at different times of the day. Why was he interested in capturing these variations in light? (4 marks)

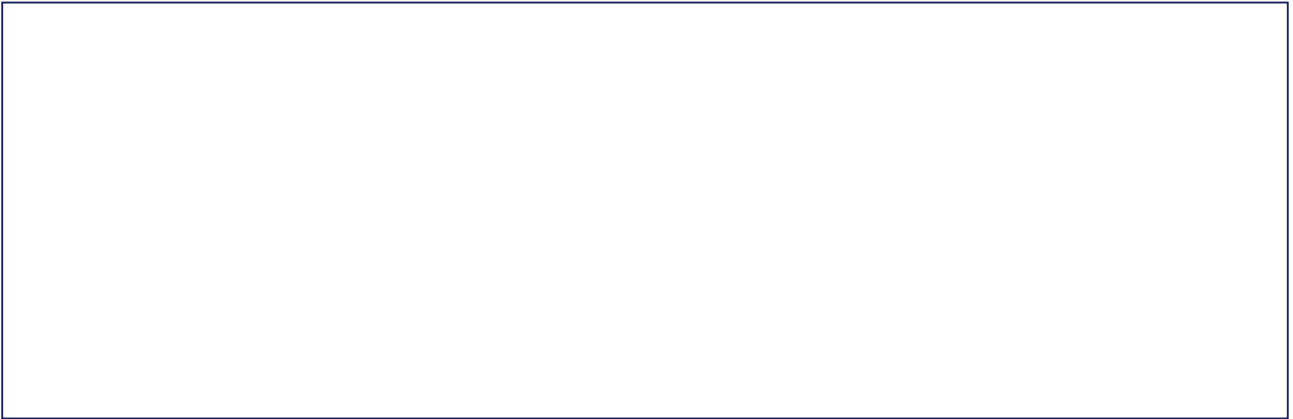
4. Compare and contrast a detailed Renaissance portrait with a Monet landscape. Which elements of the painting process change when moving from a studio setting to a natural, outdoor environment? (4 marks)

5. Zara the zebra loves patterns and colours. If Zara were to paint a scene like Monet, justify why she might choose to use complementary colours side-by-side on her canvas. (3 marks)

6. Extended Response: Critically evaluate the impact of the Impressionist movement on the art world. How did Monet's departure from 'realism' challenge the public's perception of what a painting should look like? Refer to the importance of light and colour in your answer. (5 marks)

7. What might happen if Monet had lived in a place with very little natural sunlight? Explain how this might have altered his artistic style. (4 marks)

Draw: Using the style of Monet, draw a garden scene. You must use short, choppy marks and a vibrant, warm colour palette to show the effect of light hitting the leaves and water.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension Task: Choose a familiar object in your classroom. Write a short paragraph describing how you would paint it using three different 'times of day' (e.g., sunrise, midday, dusk). How would your colour palette shift to represent the changing light?