Capturing Light: The Art of Claude Monet

Learning objective: I can identify the key characteristics of Impressionism and explain how Claude Monet used light and colour to capture a fleeting moment.

About 15 minutes. Grown-up tip: Encourage your child to look at images of Monet's work online to see the visible brushstrokes up close.

Read each question carefully. For written answers, ensure you use evidence from your knowledge of art history to support your points. Remember, Impressionists often painted 'en plein air' (outdoors) to observe natural light changing over time.

Word bank: Impressionism · brushstrokes · light · atmosphere · landscape · pigment

1. Claude Monet was a leader of the Impressionist movement. Describe two ways an Impressionist painting differs from a painting that is highly detailed and realistic. (2 marks)

2. Monet painted his famous water lilies at his garden in Giverny many times at different times of the day. Why did he choose to paint the same scene repeatedly? Give a reason. (2 marks)

3. Zara is painting a sunset over a local pond. If she wants to use a technique similar to Monet's, should she blend her colours perfectly until they are smooth, or use short, visible brushstrokes? Explain why. (2 marks)

4. Monet often used 'broken colour', where he placed unmixed colours side-by-side on the canvas. How does this affect the way a viewer sees the painting from a distance? (2 marks)

5. If Monet were visiting the seaside in Brighton today, what natural elements might he focus on to capture the 'impression' of the British coast? List three. (3 marks)

Draw: A sketch of a peaceful garden pond featuring water lilies, focusing on the reflection of the sky on the water's surface.

Extension challenge: Research a specific Monet series, such as the 'Rouen Cathedral' paintings. Write a short paragraph explaining how the building's appearance changes in different weather conditions.



I did it! Name: _____ Date: _____

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