

Third Grade Art Print

Water Lilies - by Claude Monet



Japanese Bridge at Giverny - by Claude Monet



Background Info:

Impressionism was a 19th-century art movement that originated with a group of Paris-based artists whose independent exhibitions brought them to prominence during the 1870s and 1880s in spite of harsh opposition from the art community in France. Characteristics of Impressionist paintings include relatively small, thin, yet visible brush strokes; open composition; emphasis on accurate depiction of light in its changing qualities (often accentuating the effects of the passage of time); common, ordinary subject matter; the inclusion of *movement* as a crucial element of human perception and experience; and unusual visual angles. Radicals in their time, early Impressionists violated the rules of academic painting. They began by constructing their pictures from freely brushed colors that took precedence over lines and contours.

Monet studied his subjects intently, planned his paintings, and worked hard to achieve his results. He often painted a series of the same subject to capture the changing effects of the light, swapping canvases as the day progressed.

Impasto is a technique used in painting, where paint is laid on an area of the surface, thickly enough that the brush strokes are visible. Paint can also be mixed right on the canvas. When dry, impasto provides texture - the paint appears to be coming *out* of the canvas.

Ideas for Discussion:

What do you see in the painting? How can you tell? How can you recognize the lilies and the water? By color? By shape?

How did the artist paint the objects? What are the outlines? Are the edges of the images sharp and clear? What colors did the painter use? What kind of brush strokes did he use? How do you think he put the paint on the canvas? Is it thick or thin? Do you see any areas of the painting where he put one layer of paint over another? Where? You could mention “impasto” (see above).

Do you see any reflections? What is being reflected? Trees? Sky? What do you need to have a reflection? What happens at night when you turn out the light? How does different light change what you see? At what time of day do you think this was painted? Where do you think it was painted? Do you think the same colors would be used for the sky at a different time of day?

Monet painted the lilies many times (sometimes he had many paintings in progress at the same time) - can you guess why?

Impressionists were trying to capture an impression – why didn’t they just take photographs? What makes this different than a photograph?

Do you see movement in this painting? How can you tell? How does your eye move across the painting? What is in the foreground, the middle ground, and background? You may also compare this print to the other Monet prints that we have: Boating at Argenteuil and Poppies at Argenteuil.

Project Idea:

Link to project: <http://www.kinderart.com/arthistory/monetandimp.shtml>

Materials

- White heavy stock poster board 10x10 or larger
- Masking tape or painter's tape
- Scissors
- Sponges and/or paint brushes
- Green, yellow, blue, pink, purple, white tempera paint
- Paper plates for palettes
- Clean up material
- Small print-ups of Monet's Waterlilies and the Japanese Bridge at Giverny for the children to reference at their tables

Steps

1. Show students Monet's painting and emphasize how they look fuzzy up close but realistic from a distance.
2. Explain that the students are going to paint an Impressionistic garden.
3. Demonstrate by taking a long piece of tape and cutting it into needed sizes to create a bridge, stairway, trellis, fence, or what ever you decide is going to be part of your garden.
4. Create your idea by sticking the tape on your paper in the shape of an object (bridge, stairway, etc.)
5. Using sponges or brushes, create sky, grass, water, trees, flowers, etc. by dabbing the colors on to your paper.
6. Be sure to paint over the tape, too. No white paper should show.
7. When dry, carefully pull the tape off of the painting.
8. It should appear that your objects are painted in white and your garden blooms around it.
9. From far away the painting will appear more realistic. Close-up it will appear as splotches of paint.

