

# Artists IN FOCUS

Claude Monet: Chief Impressionist



## What We Learned:

- Monet was born to a middle-class family in Paris, France in 1840. At age 5, the family moved to the country, where he gained a love for the outdoors which became a significant influence on his art.
- He began formal art training at the age of 10, and by age 15 he was well known in his town for drawing caricatures.
- He learned to paint from his aunt who was a skilled painter. At age 16, he went to live with her after his mother died. His aunt also gave him money to study art in Paris.
- Monet was the leader of the Impressionistic movement of art. These artists captured an “impression” or first glance of a person, object, or landscape. Monet’s subjects were his family, everyday life, and nature.
- Impressionist techniques include complementary colors, capturing light and impressions, and painting outdoors (*en plein air*).
- Monet was able to finish his large murals of water lilies, called “the Sistine Chapel of modern art,” before he died at age 86.



## Art Activity: Water Lilies and the Japanese Bridge

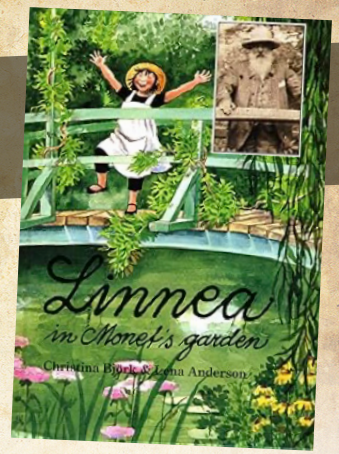
Monet loved painting pictures of his gardens at his home in Giverny, France. He built a water lily pond with a wooden bridge in his beautiful gardens and painted the scene repeatedly. Although, it was different each time. The time of day, the weather, the amount of sunlight all made a difference, and Monet wanted to capture these differences in his paintings.

The students used pastels and different techniques of watercolor to replicate Monet’s *Water Lilies* and *the Japanese Bridge* painting.



# Book Nook

*Linnea in Monet's Garden*  
by Christina Bjork & Lena Anderson



## For Parents

It was one of Claude Monet's paintings that named the art movement, Impressionism. At age 33, Monet's work entitled, *Impression, Sunrise* was included in a gallery showing along with some of his other art friends' paintings. A critic took Monet's title and called the artists "Impressionists," saying their work seemed more like sketches than finished paintings. While the term was meant to make fun of the artists, the name endured.

Monet had an interesting personal life. He married Camille and had two sons. After his first wife died, he later married Alice who already had six children. Providing for the family was hard on an artist's salary, but by age 50, Monet was being paid well for his paintings. He purchased a big pink house in Giverny with lovely gardens in the country, where he would live and paint until his death at age 86. Monet's home and gardens are now a museum.

## Connections at Home: Impressionism Project

### SUPPLIES:

- Watercolor paper
- Markers
- Spray bottle with water

### DIRECTIONS:

**STEP 1:** With markers draw a picture from nature—like a flower garden, sunset, etc. Look at some of Monet's paintings for more inspiration and ideas.

**STEP 2:** Use bold strokes and choose complementary colors, using various shades, along with browns.

**STEP 3:** Once finished, wet your picture using the spray bottle.

**STEP 4:** Allow it to dry to set the color.

STEP:1

STEP:2

STEP:3



# Connections at Home:

## Creating a Lily Pond Using Torn Paper



### SUPPLIES:

- Card stock
- Glue stick
- Cupcake liners
- Construction paper – white, pink, green, blue, purple

### DIRECTIONS:

**STEP 1:** Use one piece of construction paper for the background—purple, pink, or white.

**STEP 2:** Tear the blue and green paper to create the water and glue to the background paper. Strips can overlap to make the scene more interesting.

**STEP 3:** Tear several circles out of the green paper (these are the lily pads) and glue onto the water scene.

**STEP 4:** Add a cupcake liner to each lily pad.

**STEP 5:** Crumble a piece of pink paper and glue it to the middle of the liner for the flower.

## Additional Resources

To learn more about Claude Monet, the Chief Impressionist, click on the links below:

- Visit the Claude Monet site to see his paintings and biographical information:

[https://www.claude-monet.com/#google\\_vignette](https://www.claude-monet.com/#google_vignette)

- For an introduction to Claude Monet, watch this video for kids:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XGmjJRR04sY>

- Take a virtual tour of Monet's house and gardens at Giverny:

<https://claudemonetgiverny.fr/en/>

Watch Monet's Water Lily Garden and Japanese Footbridge: <https://thekidshouldseethis.com/post/the-water-lily-garden-of-claude-monet-a-video-visit-to-giverny-france>

- Visit the museum rotunda (with a 3600 tour) housing Monet's monumental water lily paintings:

<https://www.musee-orangerie.fr/en/node/197502>

- Explore more about Monet and view a video about Monet and Impressionism:

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-claude-monet>

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# Additional Resources

- View 9 important paintings by Claude Monet and learn why these works define him as an Impressionist: <https://www.msn.com/en-ca/autos/enthusiasts/9-paintings-by-claude-monet-you-should-know/ar-BB1q6gGq?ocid=feedsansarticle>
- The Musée Marmottan Monet houses the world's largest collection of works by Claude Monet. Visit the site to see the collection: <https://www.marmottan.fr/en/collections/claude-monet/>
- Watch this short video report about a Monet stolen by the Nazis and recently returned: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/video/peopleandplaces/nazi-looted-monet-painting-returned-over-80-years-later/vi-AA1s743M?ocid=feedsansarticle>
- Learn more about Impressionism: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sb4nkOdBarY>
- To further your study and curiosity, look at these Monet book recommendations: <https://tablelifeblog.com/claude-monet-books/>

Due to the changing nature of web resources, M&G strongly urges you as the parent to preview these sites before your child accesses them. The fact that these sites are available on this handout does not imply that M&G endorses their content from the standpoint of morals, philosophy, theology, or scientific hypotheses.

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Through tours, events, and publications, the Museum & Gallery seeks to partner with educators in fulfilling all of the National Visual Arts Content Standards. By integrating art into the core curriculum, M&G's goals are to teach children to value the arts, to communicate through the arts, to become creative problem solvers through the inclusion of STEAM-related concepts and fully-developed STEAM units, to understand history and culture in light of the arts, to improve literary interest and understanding through visual storytelling, to critique the arts, and to develop an aesthetic awareness of the arts. Through fulfilling the mission, M&G is able to help develop citizens who have the ability to think, feel, and understand the world in which they live.



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