

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: *Painting the Shimmering Sky*

Monet loved to paint clouds. He used many different colors to paint them including yellows and lavender. His use of various colors to display light and shadow reveals his artistic genius.

The students emulated the background of Monet's painting using crayons for the clouds which resisted the wet paint they used to color the sky. Short dashes of paint colors were used for the grassy area below the horizon line, including yellows to show the sunlight reflecting off the grass. Next, the students placed a figure in the painting, like Monet's; after which, they added the figure's shadow to finish their own masterpiece.

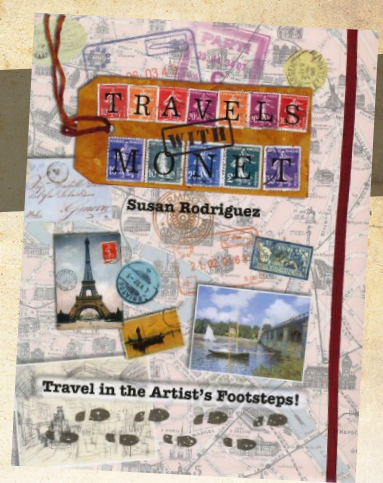


Woman with a Parasol--
Madame Monet and Her Son



Book Nook

Travels with Monet
By Susan Rodriguez



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: Painting Reflections

MATERIALS:

- White construction paper
- Pencil
- Crayons
- Paintbrushes
- Blue watercolor
- Paper towels
- Black marker

DIRECTIONS:

Step 1: Fold white construction paper in half trace the line in the middle with a pencil.

Step 2: Using pencil, draw a nature scene of flowers, trees, etc. Look at some of Monet's paintings for inspiration and ideas.

Step 3: Flip the paper upside down and copy the other half using the folded middle line as the line of symmetry. This will be the reflection of your picture.

Step 4: Color the drawing with crayons except the water.

Step 5: Paint the bottom half with blue watercolor paints and let dry.

Step 6: Trace the top half with a black marker to make the lines bold.



Connections at Home:

Make Your Own Monet Water Lilies



Watch this short YouTube tutorial to create an “impression” of Monet’s *Water Lilies and Japanese Bridge*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZ3Rw9aOWok>

MATERIALS:

- Watercolor paper
- Watercolors
- Paintbrushes
- Glue

Follow the instructions on the YouTube video.

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
- Watch this biographical video of Claude Monet:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ah5g2M14oUM>
- 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 360O 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>
- 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/>

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Additional Resources

- 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.

M&G Educational Mission:

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.

