

Claude Monet, *Water Lilies and Japanese Bridge*, 1899
Impressionism – painting



Key Facts:

Artist: Claude Monet was the leading Impressionist artist. He lived from 1840 to 1926. The Impressionists were centered in Paris, France.

Art period/style: Impressionism

Key characteristics of that period: Impressionist artists painted what they saw and felt rather than how things were exactly. They painted with short, choppy brush strokes and dabs of color. In their paintings, they tried to capture light and reflections.

Techniques: Oil painting, with thick impasto brush strokes

Impressionist artists often painted *en plein air* – meaning outside, in the open air.

Some Background: Monet often painted the same scene, many times to capture the changing light and seasons.

The Five Core Habits:

Practice the *Five Core Habits of Grammar* with art - NAMES (found on pgs. 18-19 in the Foundation Guide). Part of teaching is learning to ask a student good questions. This is a great activity for looking at art! Plus, you get to sneak in a little art history and technique along with.

5 CORE HABITS



NAMING

1. What do you call this?
2. Where does this name come from?
3. Are there any other names for this?



ATTENDING

1. What are the parts of this?
2. Where do you usually see this?
3. What makes this special?



MEMORIZING

1. What would help you memorize this? An acronym, a song, a chant, a picture, etc.
2. What did you already know about this?



EXPRESSING

1. Could you draw a picture of this or write a song about it? Could you act it out?
2. How does this make you feel?



STORYTELLING

1. Can you tell me a story about this?
2. Can I tell you a story about this?

N names (name things specifically)

A attending (look and listen carefully. Also- taste, smell, touch. Compare things.)

M memorizing (soak up facts and ideas. Memorize facts and relations of things to recall, connect, and expand new ideas to older ones from past memorizations.)

E expressing (express ideas creatively- reciting, drawing, singing, dancing)

S storytelling (hear and tell stories)

This helps us grasp the basic elements, vocabulary, and rules of any subject, and helps us progress more quickly toward comprehension and creativity in future studies.

Using the image on the first page, go through these questions:

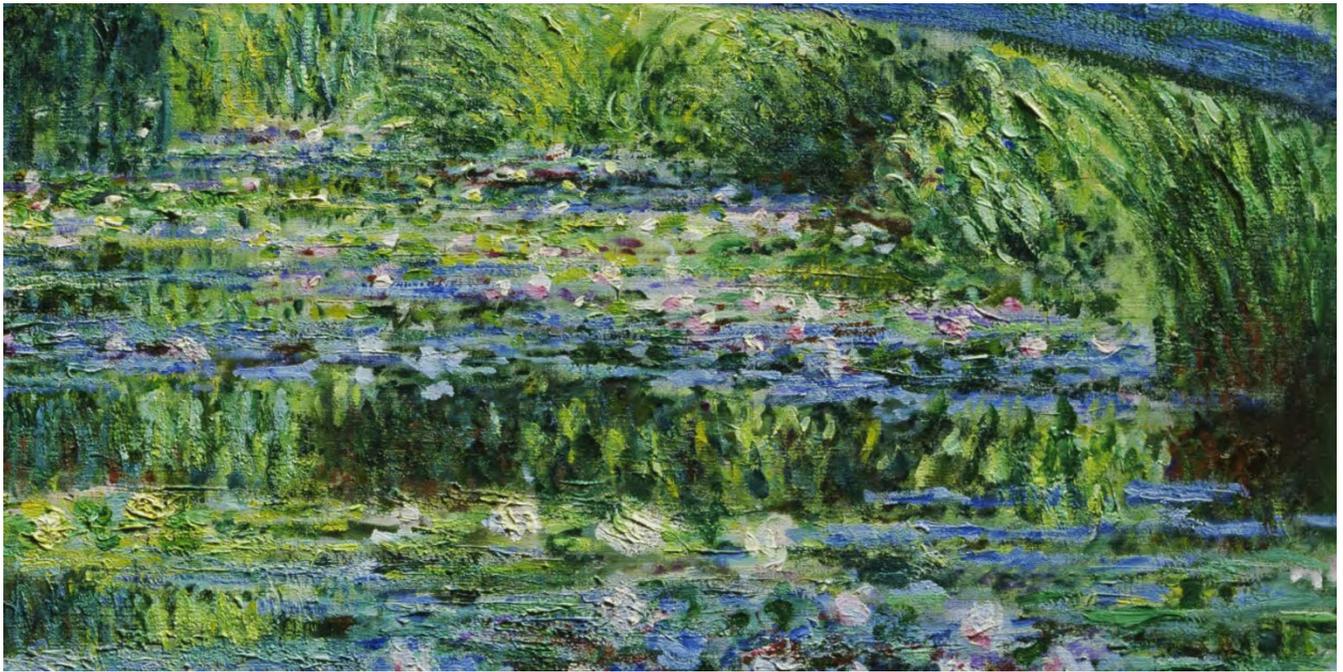
N – Names:

- Name the artist, era/art style, and technique.
- What can you find? Name the things you see.
- What do you see?
- What colors do you see?
- Where is this painted?

A – Attending

- What do you see?
- What might you hear, smell, taste, feel/touch?
- Do you have any emotions from this painting?
- How is color used?
- How about texture?
- What season might it be? How about time of day?
- Does this look like a picture-perfect image? Or more like a memory or impression?

Attending to details – here is a close-up. What else do you notice now?
Can you see the choppy brush strokes? And thick, impasto paint? How about the colors?



M – Memorize

Memorize the artist, time period, and facts about the artwork/technique.

E – Express

Express your thoughts and ideas about the art.

You can also express by trying the technique on your own. We had fun painting our own Monet bridge and lily pads! For this painting, make sure your students are familiar with the texture and thick brushwork of Monet. We used acrylic paint and sponges to dab on paint for the background. This allows you to quickly fill the background with texture and colors. It also gives the textured style of Monet. Then, use paint brushes to paint the bridge and lily pads.





If you have more time, you can have them paint on larger canvases:



S – Story telling

Tell the story about this work of art.

Refer to image on first page.

Claude Monet painted this painting at his property in Giverny, a town about an hour outside of Paris. He created a large, beautiful garden on his property with a pond full of lily pads. He also had a Japanese bridge built over the pond. His garden and pond were a source of inspiration for over 30 years. Monet painted this scene over and over again, studying the effects of light and atmosphere. He painted this scene in various times of day and seasons to study the effect of light and color. You can see some of the paintings from his series here:

https://www.wikiart.org/en/claude-monet/all-works#!#filterName:Series_the-japanese-bridge.resultType:masonry

This painting was a study of light and color. Monet wanted to capture the impression of a single moment in time. Monet's study of light and shadow, his use of color, and his choppy brushstrokes perfectly capture the Impressionist style. Rather than doing a quick sketch and then painting inside a studio, Monet painted mostly *en plein air* – or in the open air as many Impressionist artists did. He wanted a direct impression of what he observed from nature. He was careful in studying how light and shadows changed throughout the day – so his paintings showed what is known as *optical color*. With optical color, Monet painted the colors he saw, rather than the colors he knew the objects to be. For example, the white Japanese bridge would sometime have a blue or green tone due to how the lighting and surrounding colors affected it.

More examples of Claude Monet:



Impression Sunrise, 1872

These are two examples of how Monet would paint series of the same scene – over and over again. He meticulously tried to capture various moments- showing the effects of light. The colors, brushwork, and lighting effectively portray the various seasons, weather, and time of day.

