At the Seaside & Artist: Claude Monet

Summary	Artists have used the seaside as inspiration for their work for many hundreds of years. Impressionist artists were particularly inspired by beach scenes, with the beautiful colours, shapes and effects of sunlight often seen in their finished work. The beach, the ocean and the seashores are amazing sources of colour and light. Romantic artists also used beach settings to depict different emotions. Many artists liked to reflect on the shimmering light, the activities being enjoyed and to recreate the feeling of happiness, calmness and warmth.
	Claude Monet (1840–1926) was a famous French painter and the founder of the Impressionist group of painters. In 1872, he painted an Impression, Sunrise. When it was exhibited in 1874, a critic used part of its title negatively to label the style as 'Impressionism'. The critics said his paintings looked unfinished. However, Monet's paintings sold very well and he continued to experiment with colour and light, usually painting outdoors. Monet is now known as one of the greatest painters of all time.

Artists & Artisans:	Famous artists who have created seaside paintings and sculptures include: Joseph Turner (1775-1851) English Romantic Edgar Degas (1834-1917) French Impressionist Claude Monet (1840-1926) French Impressionist Anthony Gormley (born 1950) British sculptor	Vocabulary:	**inspiration:** a feeling of enthusiasm that gives you ideas **Impressionist:** relating to Impressionism; giving an impression of the subject **Romantic:** relating to Romanticism; depicting feelings and emotions and the beauty of nature **shimmering:** shining with a faint, unclear light **founder:** a person who starts something like a company or club **exhibited:** put in a public place, like an art gallery **critic:** a person who writes and expresses opinions about things such as books or art **mentor:** a teacher or coach **deliberately:** on purpose **vibrant:** very bright and clear
Colour Theory:	Warm colours, such as red, yellow and orange, remind us of things like the sun or fire. Cool colours, such as blue and green, give a cool feeling because they remind us of things like water, ice and the refreshing sea.	Styles and Periods:	Impressionism: In the 19th century a group of artists in France started to draw and paint landscapes and scenes of everyday life. They were not trying to paint a realistic picture, but an 'impression' of what the person, object or landscape looked like to them. They wanted to capture the movement and life of what they saw and show it to us as if it were happening before our eyes. They often painted thickly and used quick (quite messy) brushstrokes.

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Media & Materials:	Poster paint Watercolour paint Paint mixed with sand. Cartridge paper Card Brushes of different thicknesses.	**Techniques:**	Brushstroke: • short thick strokes to capture the basic look of the sea • quickly applied strokes to create the feeling of movement Texture mixing: • sand mixed with paint to create a grainy feel Monet often painted thickly and used quick (and quite messy) brushstrokes. He used a wide range of vibrant colours. Most of the paintings before Impressionism had a much neater finish and you cannot really see the brushstrokes at all.
Emotions:	Painters are able to stir many emotions through jungle art. For example, the wild animals may create fear when hunting and stalking their prey. When resting, however, the animals can appear friendly and cuddly. The weather can also suggest different emotions. The bright sun can make you feel calm and happy, while thunder can make you feel gloomy and scared.	**Process:**	• Monet was inspired by an artist, Eugène Boudin, who became his mentor and eventually taught him how to use oil paints. • Monet used pastels and charcoal when experimenting and practising as a young artist. • Monet carried a sketchbook around with him so that he could draw his ideas quickly on paper. • He learned about the effect of light by painting the same subject over and over again in different types of light.
Visual Language:	*The Beach at Trouville* • Ordinary, everyday scene • A moment of sunlight and colour captured – brightness of the white dress not in the shade • Blurry detail in the faces of the two women	**Effects:**	Monet and other Impressionists often painted the same view or object over and over, trying to capture different moments in light, colour and time. The paintings, with thick dabs and blobs of paint, made some people wonder if the artist had finished the painting in a hurry, but this was done deliberately to give the effect of capturing a moment in time.
Key Local Links:	View the work of Sarah Carrington who has work on display at Castlegate House Gallery and Helen Fryer (local artist from Ireby) who paints local land and seascapes. https://www.helenfryer.com/ https://www.castlegatehouse.co.uk/paintings-for-sale/sarah-carrington/	**Curriculum Links, Prior and future learning:**	Links to autumn term Geography topic of The United Kingdom and Seasonal Changes science topic. Seasonal colours in paintings can also be explored. Spring Term Art topic Scenes of the Sea.

	Basic	Advancing	Deep
Artists & Artisans	Name some famous artists who used the seaside as inspiration for their artwork. Who were some of the famous French Impressionists? What type of art is Anthony Gormley famous for creating?	Find out about the work of a famous Impressionist painter who used the seaside for inspiration. Compare and contrast a seaside painting by Turner (Romantic style) and one by Edgar Artists and Degas (Impressionist style).	Recommend a seaside painting by an impressionist painter and justify why you have chosen it. Discuss with a friend whether you prefer the seaside artwork of a Romantic painter or an Impressionist painter.
Styles & Periods	What is Impressionism? Which country did the first Impressionists come from? When did Impressionism first start? What did Romantic artists like to show in their art?	Compare and contrast the range of emotions that Romantic artists might show when using the seaside as inspiration. Why do Impressionist artists choose not to Styles and paint things in a realistic way?	Investigate a range of seaside artwork and choose one piece that best shows the style of Impressionism. Always, sometimes, never? Romantic artists were inspired by painting the seaside to create a feeling of relaxation and calmness.
Colour Theory	Which colours could be described as warm? Which colours could be described as cool? Which colours could you use to paint the sun? Which colours could you use to paint the sea?	Suggest reasons why artists might choose to use different warm or cool colours when creating seaside artwork. Compare and contrast the colours used in the seaside paintings of the Impressionists with those in the jungle paintings of Rousseau.	Do you agree that the deeper a warm/cool colour used, the hotter/colder that part of the painting looks to the viewer? Investigate why an artist might use warm colours to contrast with the cool colours of the sea.
Techniques	What kind of brushstroke helps when painting the sea? Why might it be a good idea to apply brushstrokes quickly when painting the sea? Why might you mix sand with paint when creating a seaside painting? Copy this technique in your own seaside painting.	Experiment with mixing other materials with paint to change the texture when painting the sea or the sand. Explain, using a famous seaside painting, how an artist has tried to show the Techniques movement of the sea.	Explore how changing the speed of brushstrokes can change the look of the movement of the sea. True or false? Sand is the only material you can mix with paint to create a grainy texture.

	Basic	**Advancing**	**Deep**
Process	Which artist inspired Monet to paint? Which materials did Monet experiment with when he was learning to paint? How did Monet learn to paint the effect of light? Where did Monet usually paint?	What are the similarities and differences between how Claude Monet and William Blake experimented when they were learning to be an artist? Suggest reasons why so many artists, like Monet, carried sketchbooks around with them.	Do you agree? Artists should always carry a sketchbook with them so that they can draw their ideas quickly on paper.
Effects	Why did Monet and other Impressionist artists paint the same view or object over and over again? Why did Monet often use thick dabs and blobs of paint? What did Monet's critics think when they saw his use of thick dabs and paint blobs?	Experiment with using different thicknesses and blobs of paint to create different effects. Consider how Monet would have answered if he was asked why he painted things over and over again.	Prove, using different paintings, why painters like Monet believed their style created the effect of capturing a moment in time.
Techniques	What type of brushstrokes did Monet use? How would you describe a vibrant colour, as used by Monet? Copy Monet's use of vibrant colours in your own seaside artwork.	Summarise the main differences between Monet's techniques and those of artists before the Impressionist period. Explain why the brushstroke techniques of Claude Monet and Georgia O'Keeffe are very different.	Justify which style you prefer – the messy, unfinished look of Monet's paintings or the neat and accurate style of John Constable's landscape paintings.
Visual Language	Describe the scene in Monet's *The Beach at Trouville*. What word could you use to describe the detail of the women's faces in the painting? Why is part of the white dress much brighter than the rest of the clothing?	Suggest reasons why a critic would have described Monet's painting *The Beach at Trouville* as looking unfinished. Give examples of how sunlight has been captured in this painting.	Imagine you were changing the blurry faces in Monet's painting *The Beach at Trouville*. What facial detail and expressions would you paint and why?