



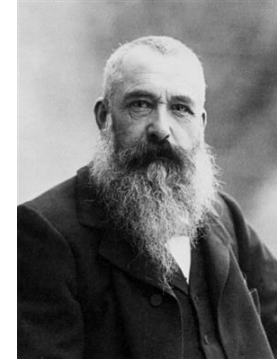
Year 4 Knowledge Organiser - Impressionism

Vocabulary

Key Questions

Key Artist

Claude Monet 1840–1926



Key Vocabulary	Definition
Perspective	Artists use perspective to represent 3D objects on a 2D surface such as paper or canvas in a way that looks natural and realistic. Perspective can create an illusion of space and depth on a flat surface.
Depth	Making objects appear closer or farther away and making a 2D image seem 3D. This gives a picture a foreground and background.
Reflection	an image seen in a mirror or shiny surface.
Acrylic	A type of paint.
Landscape	all the visible features of an area of land,
Mood	The general atmosphere, or state of mind and feelings, that a work of art generates. For example, the mood of a painting could be disturbing or tranquil, dark or energetic.

What is Impressionism?

A style or movement in painting originating in France in the 1860s, characterised by a concern with showing the visual impression of the moment. There was particular interest in showing the shifting effect of light and colour at different times of the day or seasons.

What techniques did Monet use?

One of the most important techniques to impressionism is that of broken colour, which is supposed to achieve the sensation of light itself in a painting. One of the key features of Monet's work is his fast brush strokes which creates this effect of light never previously seen in realism. Monet worked primarily in oil paint, but he also used pastels, watercolour and he often carried a sketchbook. He used quite a limited range of colours in his paintings, banishing browns and earth colours from his palette. By 1886, black had also disappeared.

Why was Monet so important?

Monet gave a name to the art movement Impressionism, which was concerned with capturing light and natural forms. The name comes from his painting 'soleil levant' meaning Impression Sunrise.

Key Information

Monet was a French painter and a founder of French Impressionist painting. He was one of the most consistent and notable practitioners of the movement.

From 1883, Monet lived in Giverny, where he purchased a house and property and began a vast landscaping project which included lily ponds that would become the subjects of his best-known works.

Description of Work

Monet's ambition of documenting the French countryside led him to adopt a method of painting the same scene many times in order to capture the changing of light and the passing of the seasons.

He began painting the water lilies in 1899, first in vertical views with a Japanese bridge as a central feature and later in the series of large-scale paintings that was to occupy him continuously for the next 20 years of his life.

He destroyed over 500 pieces of his own artwork due to frustration and self-doubt if his work was any good!

Work Examples



Timeline of Artists

