

Claude Monet 1840 - 1926

Key Facts

Claude Monet was born in Paris, France in 1840. He is known for painting the same subjects repeatedly, drawing inspiration from the unique qualities of color and light he saw each time.

In 1851 Monet attended Le Havre School of Arts. By the age of fifteen he was a caricaturist and sold his charcoal drawings to bring in extra money. It was the landscape artist Eugene Boudin, one of the first landscape painters to actually paint outdoors, who inspired Monet to leave behind caricatures. Painting outside became a major influence on the Impressionist Movement.

Monet's painting *Impression, Sunrise*, painted in 1873, is where the name of the artistic movement comes from. The first Impressionist exhibition was held in 1874 and included works by artists Degas and Cézanne. Impressionist painting shows subjects painted in a life like style, with brushstrokes that are easily seen and colours that are often bright.

In 1883, Monet moved to Giverny and started the famous water garden that still stands at his home today. He diverted water from a nearby river and imported plants from all over the world, including the water lilies which became the subject of around 250 of Monet's paintings.

In 1905, Monet was sixty-five and began to notice changes to his vision. The colours he saw were no longer as bright, and his paintings began to feature more yellow and purple tones. By 1912, Monet was diagnosed with cataracts in both eyes but did not have surgery until 1923. Following the removal of the lens in his right eye, Monet used more blues in his water lily paintings, which could indicate he was seeing ultraviolet light.

Monet died in his home at Giverny in 1926.

What else was going on in the World?

1840	Queen Victoria married Prince Albert
1914 - 1918	World War I

Key Skills

<b>Drawing</b>	Draw confidently in a variety of styles using a choice of techniques. Show an understanding of colour and how colours are combined to create an effect.
<b>Discuss an artist's work</b>	Talk critically about and get inspiration from the work of Claude Monet. Write about the artist and artworks by finding information and describing their responses.



Key Vocabulary

<b>Impressionism</b>	A style of painting that focuses on the effects of light and atmosphere on colours and forms. Impressionist artists often used broken brush strokes (rather than smooth and unnoticeable ones) and also used many colours to paint scenes of everyday life.
<b>caricature</b>	A drawing of a person that exaggerates the way they look, usually to create a humorous effect.
<b>charcoal</b>	An art material formed from burning wood in a kiln without air.
<b>landscape</b>	A painting of nature and the land such as the ocean, mountains, trees, and sky.
<b>art movement</b>	A specific style of art used by a group of artists for a period of time.

