



Primary Focus: Impressionism

Secondary Focus: Light

Define Impressionism through a discussion of Monet's painting techniques.

Monet took inspiration for his paintings from the outdoors. Many of his canvases were small so that he could capture the light in its original setting - right at the given moment. His short, hurried brushstrokes reflect his vision that the importance was not to depict the landscape as it really looked but to capture the essence of what it felt like at a given time of day.

Light: Monet - like many of the other Impressionists - investigated how natural light can change the way the landscape looks throughout the course of the day. Discuss and show examples of the series paintings he did - such as the Haystacks.

Discuss Impressionism as an art movement where several artists came together with a similar vision. This group invented a new way of painting and seeing. They were rejected for breaking away from old traditions.

Why a Japanese Bridge? Japan had just begun trading with European countries and the Impressionists were very inspired by Japanese culture and art.

Some questions to pose:

- What time of day do you think Monet painted in this work?
- Would you describe this work as light or heavy?
- Are the lines here bold or hazy?
- What is reflected in the water?
- How do you think Monet applied the paint to the canvas?
- Why a Japanese Bridge? see info to the left.
- What colors did Monet use? Are they balanced?

THE ART INSTITUTE IN CHICAGO HAS A VAST COLLECTION OF IMPRESSIONIST PAINTINGS INCLUDING MANY BY MONET.

AT HOME ACTIVITY SUGGESTION TO INCLUDE IN YOUR NEWSLETTER:

VISIT THE ART INSTITUTE WEB SITE FOR MANY SUGGESTIONS AND TO VIEW THE COLLECTION ON LINE.

www.apple.com/iwork