

## Art Appreciation: Claude Monet's Water Lilies

### Introduction:

Introduce the painting Water Lilies to the class and ask the following questions:

- Was this painted by a man or a woman?
- What do you recognize in the painting? What is the painting of?
- What colors are used?
- How big do you think this painting is?
- What time of year? What time of day?
- Do you like this painting?

### Learning about Claude Monet:

- Explain that Claude Monet was a man who lived in France over 100 years ago. (show picture of Monet)
  1. He loved art from an early age. He went to art school when he was a teenager. He was in the army for a couple of years, but went back to art as soon as he could.
  2. He was often very poor. His paintings didn't earn very much money until the end of his career. They are now worth millions.
- This painting was of his water lily pond. The actual painting was huge (show photo of him with painting).
- Monet painted thousands of paintings. He painted many different things. (show the prints).
- Monet made the impressionist style of painting very famous.
  1. He painted what he saw, as opposed to what was actually there. He focused on the colors and light.
  2. This is why some of the water lilies are just a blur of color.
  3. Up close his paintings look very blurry, but they look realistic when viewed further away.
  4. Show the picture of Mrs. A as an example.
- When he first started out, he painted very realistically (show early examples of his work). He then moved on to the impressionist style of painting. As he became older, his eyesight became worse because of cataracts. Explain that cataracts make your vision cloudy. His work became more and more blurry. (Show late examples of his work where paintings look like scribbles).
- Monet liked to paint the same scene in hundreds of different ways. He would paint the scene at different times of day and times of year to see how the light would change the scene. He painted over 250 paintings of his lily pond. Explain how it takes lots of practice to become good at something.

- Monet would get frustrated with his work and destroyed many paintings. Just like when we get frustrated trying to draw, or build Legos, etc.

Art Activity:

- We are going to paint in the impressionist style. We are going to paint one of his famous paintings, the Japanese Footbridge, which was in his water lily pond.
- We have taped the bridge in masking tape. We will paint over the tape, all kinds of colors to represent flowers, water, bushes, lily pads. We will remove the tape and have a beautiful impressionist picture to take home.

See ARTIST FOLDER FOR EXAMPLE