



Oil on canvas paintings by the French Impressionist artist Claude Monet. Claude liked to paint the water garden that he created in Giverny, France. He used bright colours and loose brushwork. He was trying to capture a fleeting moment in time and painted the garden at different times during the day.

## Look at the Painting...

Look at the painting that you have chosen to write about and answer the following questions on a separate sheet of lined paper. **Remember to write in full sentences!**

1. What is the **name of the artist** who made the painting?
2. **When** was the artist **born** and when did they **die**/Are they still alive?
3. What is the **title** of the painting?
4. **When was the painting created?** E.g. Which year?
5. What **media** was used to create the painting? E.g. oil paint.
6. **What is the painting of-** can you describe what you see?
7. What **format** is it? e.g rectangular *or* square? Vertical *or* horizontal?
8. What is the **composition** like? E.g. is all of the space used, are shapes placed in the middle/front/back *or* to the left/right of the painting?

Is the **style** of the painting **realistic-looking, stylised** *or* **abstract**?

How has the artist used **line** in the painting? E.g. have lines been used to **outline shapes** *or* to create a stripy **pattern** *or* rough **texture**? Are lines **thin** *or* **thick/straight** *or* **curvy/long** *or* **short**?

11. How has the artist used **shape** in the painting? E.g. are shapes **obvious** to see *or* do they **merge** into each other? Are shapes **irregular** like flower shapes *or* **regular geometric** shapes like squares and circles?

Has the artist repeated shapes to create a **regular repeat pattern** *or* a **natural pattern**? *Or* is there **no use of pattern**?

13. How has the artist used **colour** in the painting? E.g. are there a lot of **different** colours used? Are colours **primary** *or* **secondary/ hot** *or* **cold/ bright** *or* **dull**?

Do you think that the artist's use of colour creates a happy, sad, angry *or* peaceful **mood**?

Has the artist **used the paint** carefully to create a **smooth texture** *or* does the paint look **rough** to touch? Do you see **brushstrokes**?

Does the paint look **thick** and **opaque/** *or* **thin** and **transparent**?

17. Do you like *or* dislike the painting? Explain your **opinion**...

## Facts about Claude Monet & Impressionism

- Oscar Claude Monet was born on the 14<sup>th</sup> November in 1840 and he died on the 5<sup>th</sup> December in 1926.
- Monet was a French artist, best known for working in a style called Impressionism which he created.
- Monet attended the Académie Suisse in Paris where he studied art and met other artists, such as Camille Pissarro.
- An impressionist, he was interested in new scientific theories about colour and he chose to use blue instead of black for darker tones and shadows, and placed contrasting colours together - those opposite each other on the colour wheel, such as blue and orange - for visual effect.
- Advances in photography in the 19<sup>th</sup> century led to changes in Monet's use of composition so that Monet's work looked more informal and less traditional, with parts of the subject cut off by the edge of the canvas.
- He painted outside 'en plein air' a lot rather than in his studio, recording contemporary life, and was entranced by changes in natural light and he sought to capture a fleeting moment in time within his artwork.
- Although he painted in many genres, such as still life and portraiture, he was inspired by nature to paint his garden at Giverny in the north of France. He created a water garden at Giverny, diverting the river, and he painted a series of works based on the pond with its Japanese bridge and the river and the plants that he grew there.
- As his eye sight failed in his later years, his work became more abstract and he was interested in the use of increasingly small brushstrokes, experimenting with colour and surface effects.

## Monet and Impressionism

Task:

Answer the following questions, using full sentences and writing on this worksheet.

1. Who was Claude Monet?
2. When was Monet born?
3. When did he die?
4. What famous style of art did Monet help to create?
5. Where did Monet study art?
6. Where did Monet live and build his famous water garden in France?
7. What subjects did Monet like to paint?
8. Where can you see Monet's paintings today in Paris?
9. Has Monet's artwork inspired other artists?
10. How much do Monet's paintings typically sell for?