

CLAUDE MONET

Lesson For Ages 10 - Adult



Step 1 - Introducing the Claude Monet Slideshow Guide

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1. SLIDE - PARIS SALON

I want you to pretend you are a member of a jury. What does a jury do? Instead of deciding the guilt or innocence in a court of law, you are a jury to judge art submitted by artists. You get to decide whether to accept a work of art for exhibition in the Salon of Paris. **(INDICATE SLIDE)** The Salon is the very center of the art world for all of Europe. Having your artwork exhibited in the Salon is the goal of every aspiring artist. Therefore your verdict is one of life or death to the artist's dreams and plans for fame and fortune. Your job is very, very important, and also very hard and time-consuming. You have to judge about 4000 works of art submitted by artists each year, but only about 2,000 works are accepted.

At the Salon, paintings accepted by the jury are hung almost from floor to ceiling. More controversial paintings are often hung at the top, where they can barely be seen from ground level. If your painting is hung at eye level, you are very favored and your popularity will soar!

Each artist works very hard all year in hope of being selected for the exhibition. Jury, I'm going to show you the first painting that you are to judge. Give me a thumbs up if you accept the painting for the Salon exhibition or a thumbs down if you reject the painting. **(DEMONSTRATE WITH THUMB)**

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2. SLIDE - IMPRESSION SUNRISE

This painting is by the French artist Claude Monet. He came to Paris at the age of eighteen hoping to exhibit his work at the Salon. If you voted thumbs down, then you matched the real vote of the Paris Salon in 1874.

The title of the painting you see is *Impression Sunrise*. It was Monet's momentary look during the sunrise at the water and harbor. It was a quick "impression" of that moment. A newspaper reporter took that title and named those exhibiting new artists, "The Impressionists." He gave them that name to make fun of them! That same reporter compared this painting to a piece of wallpaper that had been left out in the rain! Almost no one in 1874 believed these young painters were serious. Listen to Monet's memories:

“Artwork sold for as little as 50 francs -- and that was only because of the value of the frames.”

The Impressionist name stuck even though Monet and his artist friends hated that name. They wanted to be called “the Independent Artists.” It took four more exhibits and much criticism before people started to take their work seriously. Now art history tells the story of the impressionists, and their art is highly valued, sells for record amounts, and is loved throughout the world.

What made the art of the Impressionists so different and so hard for the public to accept? Let’s first look at what people were accustomed to seeing in art.

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3. SLIDE – MONA LISA

Do you recognize this painting? It is one of the most famous paintings in the world? It’s the *Mona Lisa* painted by Leonardo Da Vinci 500 years ago. One reason the people in Paris laughed at Monet’s paintings was because of color. For years artists had painted mostly in tones of grays and browns. A painting like this one had lots of detail, and paint was carefully blended into the canvas, so brushstrokes were not visible. Remember the orange sun and its reflection in *Impression Sunrise*?

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2. REVERSE SLIDE - IMPRESSION: SUNRISE

This was shocking to people. Notice the dabs of color in the water. Look at how little detail there is with the people and small boats.

[Click Next Twice](#)

4. SLIDE - WOMAN WITH A PARASOL

How would you vote on this painting? Thumbs up or thumbs down? Now Monet and these new artists didn’t even paint with brown and black paint. They used bright colors. The public was not ready to accept this bold new look. I want you to look at the colors in this outdoor scene of Monet’s wife and oldest son. Sometimes Impressionists didn’t mix their colors on a palette. They dabbed them next to each other right on the canvas, so it gave a spotty effect. Focus on the grass in the foreground. Can you see different dabs of color, instead of a carefully blended green? (YES) When Monet looked at a tree or grass or a flower, he did not see just one color, he saw millions of flecks of color. And that’s what he painted.

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5. SLIDE – IMPRESSIONIST’S PALETTE

What two colors are mixed to make the color green? (BLUE, YELLOW) There is another way to mix green that the Impressionists invented. Here you see little separate dabs of blue and yellow painted very close to each other. What color do you see? (GREEN) Our eyes do the mixing for us. That’s how Monet used color.

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6. SLIDE – WOMEN IN THE GARDEN

If you could see this original oil painting in a museum and stood very close, you would be able to see the tiny dabs of color he used to create a tree. Also, if you were able to see the original of *Women in the Garden*, you would be surprised at its size! This canvas was so large that Monet had to use ladders and stools to reach every part while painting. This didn’t work too well, so he invented a better way. Since he was painting in his own garden, he ordered a trench to be dug into which he lowered the canvas by ropes and pulleys. He then could raise or lower it to work on the part he wanted.

It was very important for Monet to paint his landscapes outdoors, so that he could capture on canvas all the beautiful colors his artist’s eyes could see. He was trying to show how color was changed by light, and he had to be outside to do that. He would paint in the rain, with bugs flying around, and even in the snow. But with such a huge canvas, he was forced to finish it indoors during the winter with no garden view. So to fill up the background space where a garden had been planned, what do you think he did? He added a fourth woman!

Can you find his wife in this painting? She is the one in the front seated with the umbrella. She was the only model for this painting, and he posed her four different ways in different costumes. Monet was a poor young artist and could not afford to hire models. He also could not afford to buy these beautiful dresses you see Camille wearing. He copied them out of a ladies’ fashion magazine.

I want you to act as the Salon jury once again, because Monet sent this painting to the Salon. Let’s see if you vote the way they did. Do you accept, or reject? The real Paris jury rejected this painting that he had worked so long and hard to produce.

Remember that the Impressionists like Monet didn’t use brown or black paint. How did they paint the dark shadows you see in this painting? **(MIXED COLORS)**

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7. SLIDE - COLOR CHART

The Impressionists studied the color wheel very carefully and learned how colors can change each other. They knew that primary colors, the first colors, mix together to make

secondary colors. What happens when you mix all three primary colors together? **(GET BLACK OR BROWN)**

They also liked to use **COMPLEMENTARY COLORS**, because they look very good when used together. Are they opposite or on the same side of the color wheel? **(OPPOSITE)** Yes, they are opposite, like red and green. **(POINT OUT ON COLOR WHEEL)** They look good together, because they are so different. The reds look redder and the greens look greener. Complementary colors make a painting look vibrant and exciting. Do you know what happens when you mix red and green together or any other complementary color pairs? You end up with a dark shadow color. Monet didn't need to buy brown or black paint, because he knew the magic of colors.

Monet also liked to use **ANALOGOUS COLORS**, if he wanted a painting to look calm and peaceful. They are close to each other on the color wheel, and so they are very similar. These colors are in harmony; they blend.

We've seen Monet's wife, Camille, now let's meet the artist himself.

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8. SLIDES – PORTRAIT OF MONET BY RENOIR

When Monet was away from his wife, he wrote her hundreds of letters that reveal a tender side of his nature. But people outside his family considered him a proud man with whom it was not easy to get along. He was obsessed with his work and was known to be moody when he wasn't pleased with a painting. He was very competitive. Neighbors thought him unfriendly, because he avoided gossip in his neighborhood. So he had two distinct sides to his personality.

Monet met with a lot of disappointments throughout his career. He also struggled constantly to make enough money to live. He spent much of his early career penniless, escaping bill collectors and starvation. His artist friends helped support him.

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9. SLIDE - GRAINSTACKS IN SNOW

Can you tell what is the subject of this next painting? Your clue is, "farming."
(HAYSTACKS) Remember how seriously Monet took his painting? Listen to what Monet said about working on these paintings: "I work until I nearly drop from fatigue--it is always in this way that I have the best results. I work very hard, but could not dream of doing anything but the haystacks. It is an enormous project."

By the time Monet painted these haystacks in his middle years, he was well known as an artist. He began to study and do series of paintings to show how changing light affects

color. His haystack paintings were very popular and sold quickly at good prices. He exhibited 15 haystack paintings together.

Do you think painting haystacks would captivate you to do it over and over again? **(NO)** It was not so much the haystacks that interested Monet, but the way they changed in the light. In the cloudy, winter scene, Monet contrasted the cool, blue colors of the background with the warm, orange color of the haystack. There are few shadows because the sun is hidden by the clouds. Now let's take another look at the same location but painted at a different time of year.

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10. SLIDE – HAYSTACKS

What time of year do you think it is? **(SUMMER OR FALL)** Is the sun directly overhead as it was in the first haystack painting? **(NO)** It is lower in the sky and casting longer shadows with the haystacks.

Do these haystacks make you feel peaceful or noisy? **(PEACEFUL)** Monet created that feeling with the colors he used. Do you think it would still look peaceful if the colors were red, yellow, and blue? **(NO)** His haystacks were very popular and sold well at good prices. Can you see his brushstrokes? **(YES)** His technique was to use many dabs, commas, and dashes of color. That's how he saw the world. He saw the world from unusual places, too. Let's take a look at one of his favorite places to paint.

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11. SLIDE – MONET'S FLOATING STUDIO

This is Camille and Monet in his floating art studio on a river in France. It was painted by a fellow artist friend, Eduoard Manet (man-NAY). Monet and some of his Impressionist artist friends loved painting water, because it showed the REFLECTION of color and light.

Do you think it would be easy to paint on a rocking, unstable boat? **(NO)** It didn't matter to Monet, because he wasn't painting detailed works like the *Mona Lisa*. Instead he was dabbing on his colors in short brushstrokes, working quickly before the light, shadows and reflections changed.

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12. SLIDE – ANTIBES

This landscape will give us another view of his Impressionist way of mixing color. It's wonderful to see original paintings in a museum, because if you want a closer look, you just walk right up to the picture! We'll pretend to do that now. Keep your eye on the tree trunk, as we step in to see the detail close up.

13. SLIDE - ANTIBES CLOSE UP – TRUNK

Does that give you a better idea of how Monet painted? Look at the rippling water surface created with little dabs and commas of paint. Now focus closely on the branches of the tree, as we step up closer to see Monet's brushwork and use of color.

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14. SLIDE - ANTIBES CLOSE UP - BRANCHES

Notice the reds and greens together. This brings our attention to the foreground. Do you see dabs and commas of colors? **(YES)** Monet did not blend his paints on the palette or on the canvas, as you can see. He showed his separate brushstrokes.

Would you like to travel to France? If you did, as a tourist you could visit Monet's house and garden where he painted many beautiful pictures. So let's do the next best thing and travel via our computer to Giverny (Zhe-ver'-nee) where Monsieur Monet spent many happy years living and painting.

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15. SLIDE - PHOTO OF ARTIST'S HOME AT GIVERNY

Monet bought a large country home north of Paris, surrounded by lots of land, that was mostly weeds. After a lot of hard work, he turned it into a gardener's paradise, planting dozens of trees, bushes, and flowers. Monet loved gardening second only to painting. The flowers you see in this photograph are similar to the ones Monet planted when he lived there. As he grew older and became more successful, he had five gardeners working every day to keep up his garden. Notice the unusual color of the house: pink!

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16. SLIDE - BRIDGE PHOTOS

His favorite place at Giverny was his water garden with the bridge. Monet bought a swampy piece of land next to his property and transformed it into an oriental water garden. Despite objections from the town, he diverted a small river to create a pond and planted its banks with willow trees, flowers, bamboos, and he covered the surface with exotic water lilies. The pond became the focus of his life and his art for more than twenty-five years.

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17. SLIDE – BRIDGE PHOTOS

Monet decided that his pond needed a small bridge. He found the design he wanted in a book of art from Japan. He called it the Japanese Bridge.

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19. SLIDE – BRIDGE PHOTOS

Remember, Monet painted pictures in a series. He studied his subjects from all directions, under all variations of light, and in all seasons of the year. He painted this same water lily pond and bridge time and time again.

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19. SLIDE - JAPANESE BRIDGE 1900

Notice how he used red and green. What do we call those two colors together? **(COMPLEMENTARY)** It becomes a very vibrant painting because of these two colors. Monet's lily pond was a constant source of inspiration. I think we can see why because of its beauty and the ever-changing water reflections and colors.

For the last twelve years of his life, Monet seldom left his home. Many artists traveled from all over the world to learn about Impressionism. But Monet ignored them, lost in his paintings. He had only one subject now--the gardens, and the lily pond in particular. He called his painting of the pond "WATER LANDSCAPES."

But something happened to Monet to radically change the way he painted. Let me show you this dramatic change, and see if you can guess what happened to cause this change.

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20. SLIDE - JAPANESE BRIDGE 1918-1924

Can you tell me the theme of this painting? **(SAME BRIDGE)** Is this very, very different from his other paintings? **(YES)** What has changed? **(COLORS, LACK OF DETAIL, BLURRY, GARISH)** Can you guess what happened to Monet to cause this drastic change in his style of painting? Monet began to lose his eyesight at the age of sixty-eight because of cataracts, and he was virtually blind about ten years later.

But during those years of failing eyesight, he continued to paint. His perception of color was distorted and changeable as we see in this painting. How did Monet react to this tragedy? Listen and find out.

[CLICK "Audio"](#)

SCRIPT: *"All winter I closed my door to everyone. I felt that without doing this, each day would be diminished, and I wanted to profit from what little eyesight I had left to bring some of my decorations to conclusion. And I was very wrong. For, in the end, I had to acknowledge that I was ruining them-- that I was no longer capable of making anything*

beautiful. And I destroyed several of my canvases. Today I am almost blind, and I should renounce all work. It's hard, but that's how it is: a sad ending in spite of my good health."

End Of Audio – Continue Reading

Eventually, two operations on his right eye, and special glasses, restored his vision. He was able to paint again, and he spent the last years of his life painting his water lily pond.

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21. SLIDE - WATER LILIES

What is different from the first bridge picture? **(NO BRIDGE, NO SKY, ONLY WATER AND WATER LILIES)** Yes, he eliminated everything but water and lilies. What art word from our color chart describes these colors? **(ANALOGOUS)** Are the colors peaceful and quiet? **(YES)**


By the time Monet painted this, he was the most popular French artist alive. His long struggle to gain acceptance finally paid off. He cared little about fame, though, and continued to feel he had never succeeded. Monet always tried to surpass everything he had done before. He pushed himself to the limit in art.

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22. SLIDE - FAMILY GRAPHIC

Monet lost his first wife, Camille, to an illness when she was still young, leaving behind two young sons. He married again to Alice, who was also widowed with six of her own children. They became one big happy family living at Giverny. His stepdaughters can be seen in many of Monet's garden paintings.

Lesson Finished
You have answered
10 out of 10 questions correctly



Did you enjoy learning about our Master Artist? Now it's time to practice the techniques you will use in your art activity

→ Back To Units Return Home

Click Next And Read Pieres final Toughts

When complete, click Back To Units

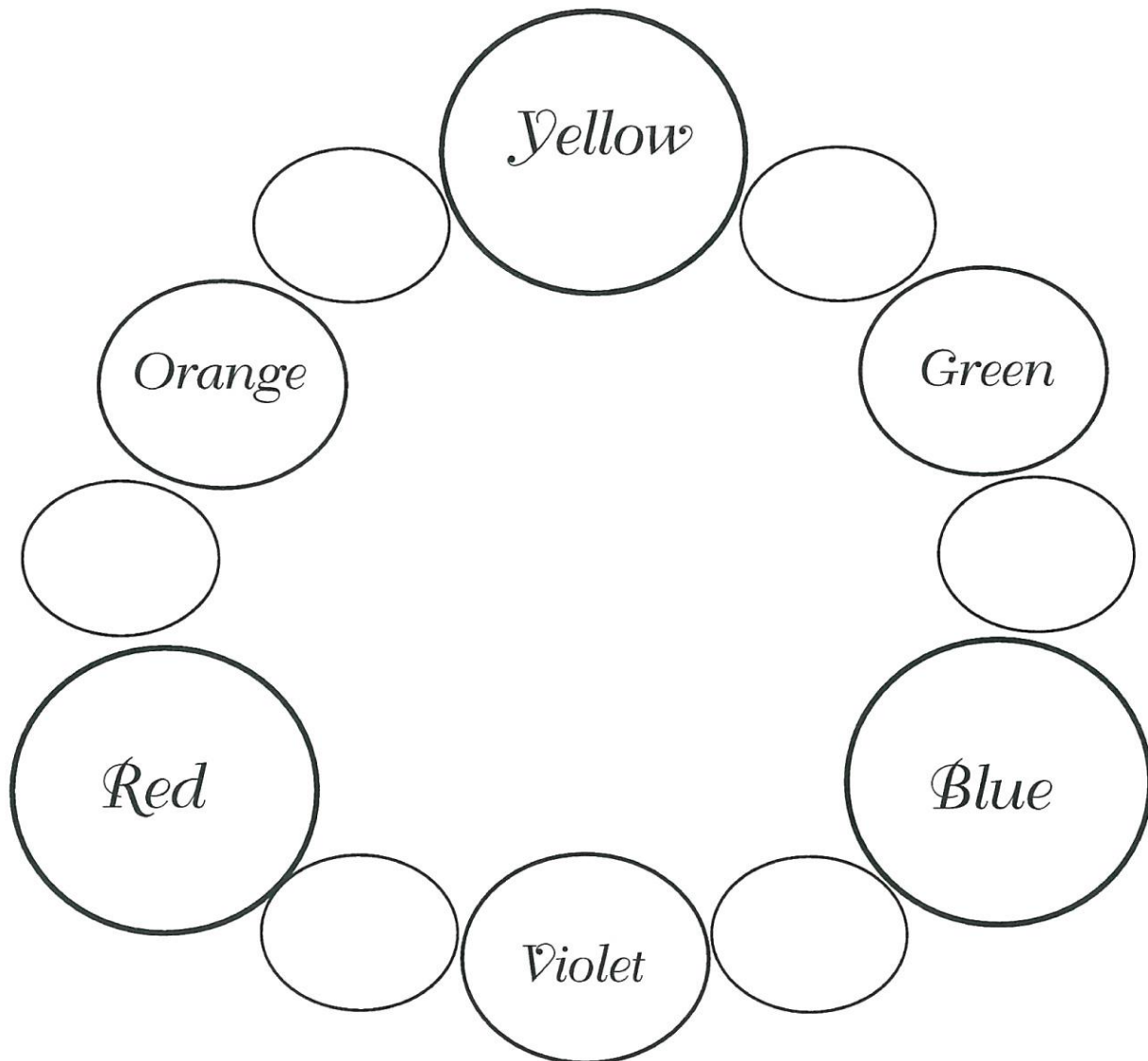
Step 2 - Learning From: Monet's Colors

The Color Wheel

A color wheel shows how colors are related to each other.

An artist uses a color wheel to select and mix colors.
The primary colors (red, blue and yellow) are the only colors necessary will make a secondary color (orange, green, or violet)

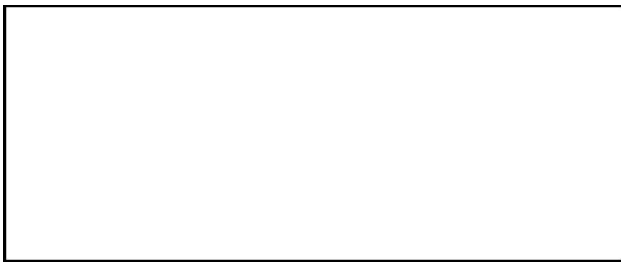
Use crayons to color the color wheel.
Start with the three primary colors in the large circles



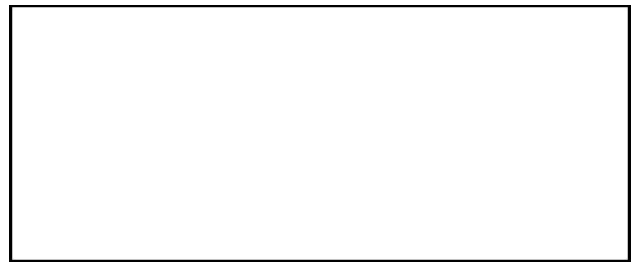
Color Feeling

Colors which are most like the colors of the sun are grouped together on the color wheel. They are called Warm colors. Look on the half of the color wheel that has red, orange and yellow. The other colors are called Cool colors.

Use your color wheel to help you find colors that remind you of the word under each frame. Fill each frame with shapes or lines made from the colors you chose.



Chilled



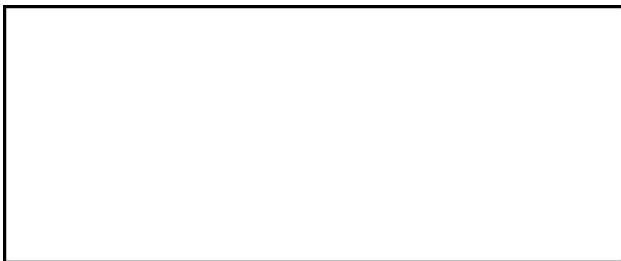
Noisy



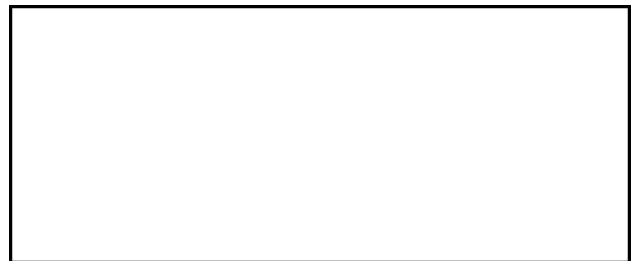
Joyous



Burning



Shady



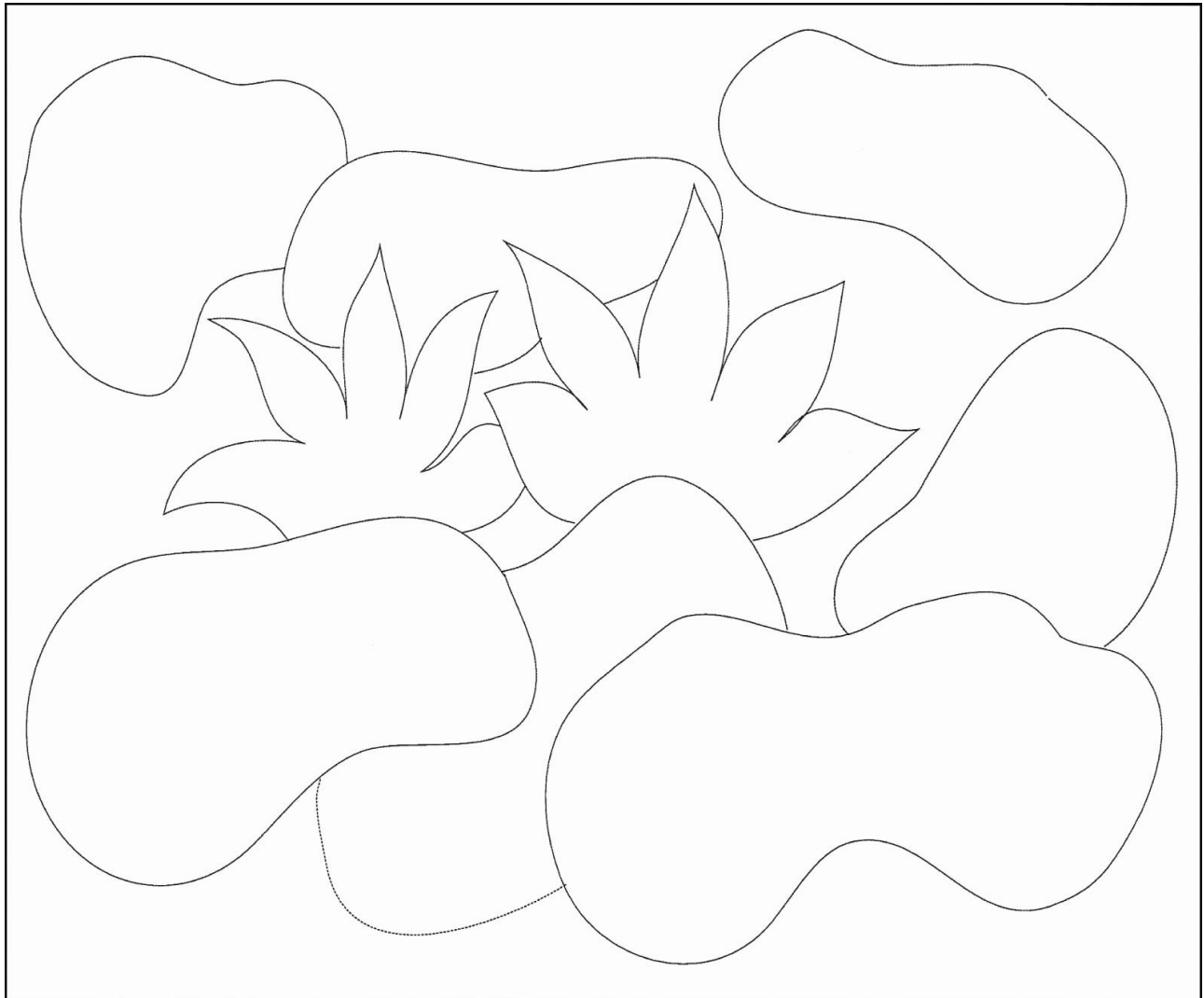
Quiet

Color Relationship

The color wheel helps us to see color relationships. Colors which are close together on the color wheel are called Analogous colors.

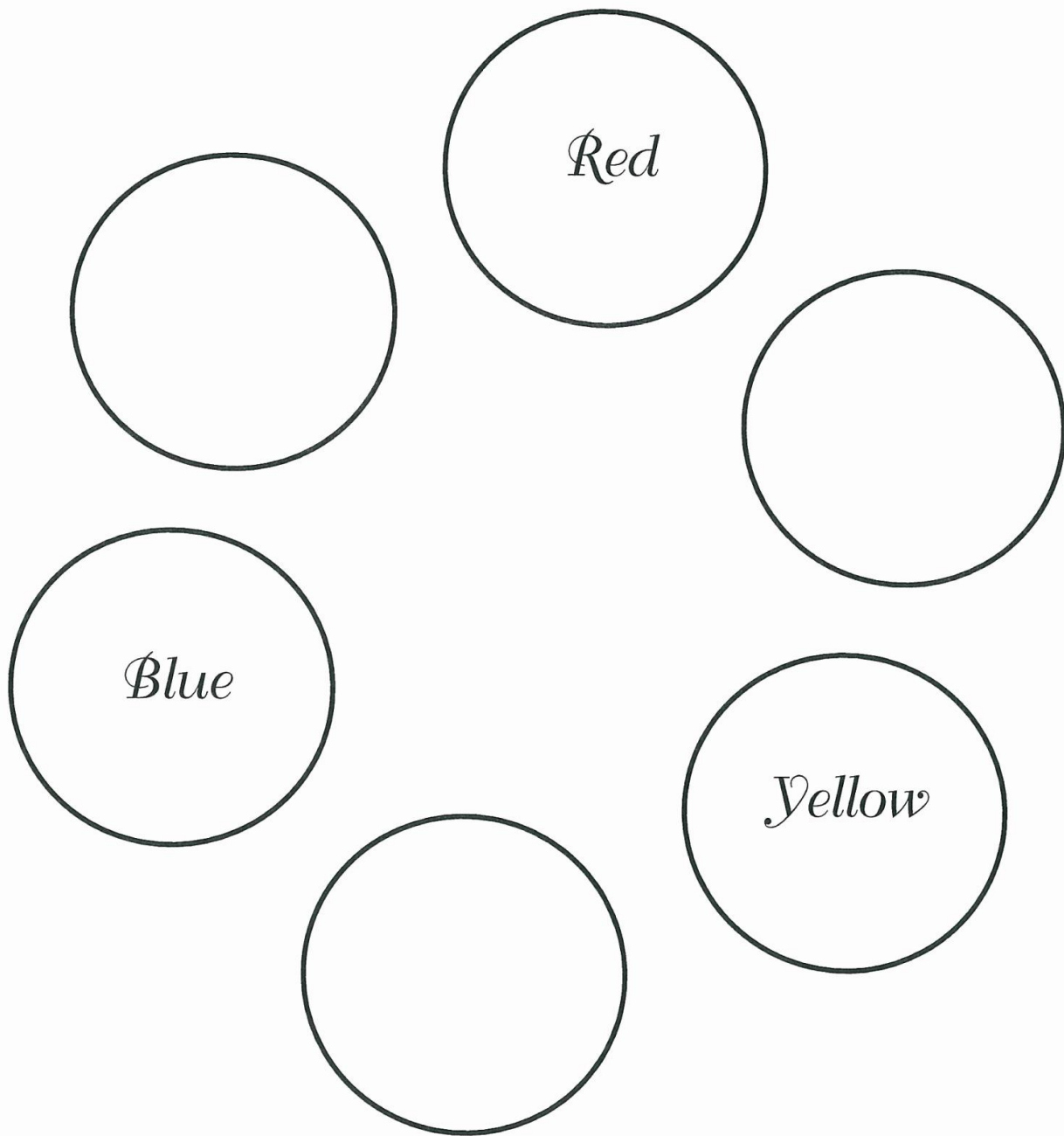
Red and _____ are analogous colors.

Color the water lilies and background with analogous colors.
Use your color wheel to help you choose analogous colors.



Save this page for the Color Wheel Project.

The Impressionist's Color Wheel



ARTIST PROFILE SLIPS

The last few pages of this section contain the Art Activity for Claude Monet. This step-by-step outline will be a guide for instructing your child(ren) through the activity.

The parent/teacher should review all steps necessary to complete this project before beginning any work.

Cut out the Artist Profile Slip below and attach it to the back of your completed art project.

Claude Monet

(moe-NAY) - French (1840-1926)

Monet earned the title, “Father of Impressionism” by leading innovative artists to break with tradition and see the world with a fresh eye where light and color reigned. The techniques of Impressionism were discovered through viewing the masterpieces created by Monet.

Art Activity Emphasis: Color, Theory, Color Wheels

Media: Tempera Paint, Q-tips

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Step 3 - Working With: Art Activity Instructions

ARTIST

CLAUDE MONET (moe-NAY)
(1840-1926) French

TECHNIQUE

Q-tip painting

ART ELEMENT

Color

EMPHASIS

Impressionistic painting

MEDIA

Tempera

VISUAL

Print: *The River*

VOCABULARY

Impressionism, primary, secondary,
color wheel, palette, vertically

SUGGESTED MUSIC

Impressionistic Music

MATERIALS FOR INSTRUCTOR AND CHILDREN

One paper plate
One 9" x 12" sheet of light blue construction
paper
One 12" x 18" sheet of newsprint
(placemat)
Four Q-tips
Paper towel
Artist Profile Slip (page 85)

Extra Q-tips
Tempera paint in red, yellow and blue
(add about two teaspoons of each color
onto the paper plate "palette")
One blank color wheel from Learning
Packet
Crayons (red, yellow and blue)

PREPARATION

Place a blank color wheel and the Monet print in front of you on the workspace. Arrange materials for instructor nearby.

SET-UP [5 minutes]

Distribute the following materials to each child:

SUPPLIES: Four Q-tips and one paintbrush.

PAPER: One 12" x 18" sheet of newsprint, one 9" x 12" sheet of light blue construction paper, paper towel, and the artist profile slip.

PAINTS: One paper plate palette with red, yellow, blue and white paint, and water cups filled 1/3 full to each student.

ORIENTATION [5 minutes]

(Point out the Monet print) Do you know the name of the artist who created this painting? (MONET) How did he apply the paint? (LITTLE DABS) What was his method of painting called? (IMPRESSIONISM) After you finish with your color wheels, you will paint a landscape of trees in the Impressionistic style. Let's get organized so we can begin!

DEMONSTRATION AND ACTIVITY [20 minutes]

ORGANIZING YOUR MATERIALS AND WORK AREA

Your paper plate will be your palette, and your Q-tips will be part of your brushes. Move your blank color wheel to the center of your desk on top of the newsprint. Arrange your paper plate palette to one side. Keep your Q-tips and paintbrush on your paper towel. Set your construction paper and artist profile slip to the top of your work space and out of the way.

PAINTING THE COLOR WHEEL

PAINT THE PRIMARY COLORS

Let's add the three primary colors to the color wheel. How would Monet have painted the circle marked "yellow?" (DABS OF PAINT) Dip one Q-tip into your yellow paint and dab the color into the circle marked "yellow." Press gently and use the side of the Q-tip. You may leave some white showing through, as Monet would have. You may also cover the line if you wish. When you have filled your circle, rest your yellow Q-tip on your scrap paper. Follow the same technique for the red and blue circles. Use a clean Q-tip for each color.

PAINT THE SECONDARY COLORS

When mixing color, always begin with the lightest color.

ORANGE:

Which two colors, when mixed together, will make orange? (RED AND YELLOW) When you mix two primary colors you get a SECONDARY color. To make the secondary color orange:

1. Pick up your yellow Q-tip, scoop up some yellow paint with it, and then dab it into the circle between the yellow and red circles. Put your yellow Q-tip down and pick up your red one.
2. Scoop up some red paint and add it to the yellow in the "orange" circle.
3. Dab it just until it looks orange (**Do Not** stir as it will work the paint through the paper).

PURPLE:

To make the secondary color purple, which two primary colors should you use? (RED AND BLUE):

1. Use your blue Q-tip to mix the blue and red.
2. Which circle do you think will be filled with purple? (BETWEEN RED AND BLUE)

GREEN:

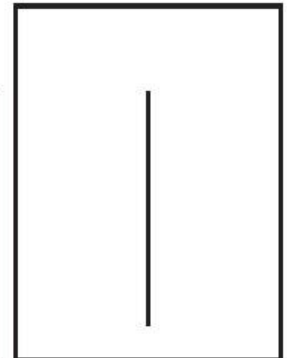
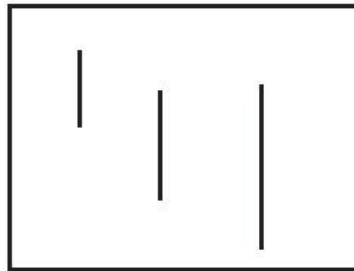
Which two primary colors will make green? (YELLOW AND BLUE)

When you are finished with your color wheel, move it out of the way and place your blue paper in the center of your work space to begin work on your landscape.

LANDSCAPE COMPOSITION

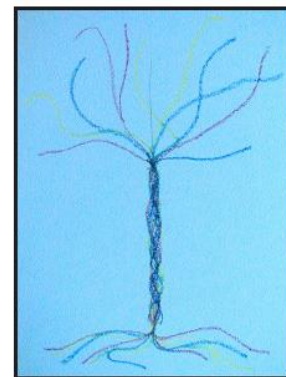
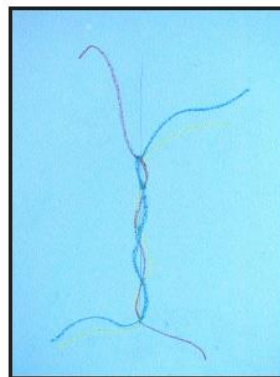
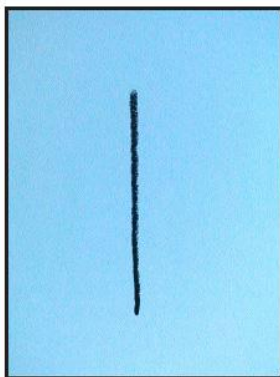
CREATE THE COMPOSITION AND PAINT THE SKY [5 minutes]

1. Decide if the composition will have one or more trees and if the Composition will be horizontal or vertical.
2. With a pencil, lightly sketch a straight vertical line for each tree. The closest tree will be lowest on the paper. For trees further back, lines should be shorter and higher on the paper.
3. Using a Q-tip and white tempera, create the clouds in the sky. Use the side of the Q-tip to "dab." Dip the Q-tip in the water to create more translucent clouds. The clouds will remain in the top half of the composition.



PAINT THE TREE TRUNKS [10 minutes]

Dip the paintbrush into the water and then into the blue and the red paints. Be sure to drag the brush (don't push it). Starting at the root, and using the pencil lines as guides, paint to the end of the branches. Each trunk will have seven to eleven lines. Water will thin the paint to create a less intense color and make the paint "flow" more easily.



Branching lines start at a common point and travel together for a while, then they go off in their own direction

DAB THE LEAVES AND FOREGROUND [10 minutes]

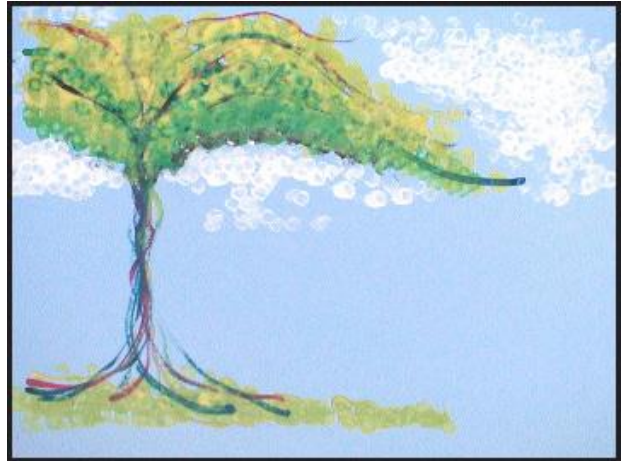
Now that you have finished your tree trunks, watch while I demonstrate the next technique.

1. Using the side of the Q-tip, pick up the lightest color that will be part of the leaves and foreground. Dab that color among the branches. With another Q-tip pick up the color that will blend with the light color. Start with yellow and add blue to create green. Start with white and

add red to create pink. **Encourage children to let all colors show.** Don't blend everything completely. If blending yellow and blue, the leaves should show yellow, several shades of green, and blue. Continue to dab the leaves on all trees. Use the same colors to create the foreground, the area around and in front of the roots of the tree trunk.

2. Decide from what direction the light source (sunlight) is coming. Use blues to create shadows and whites and yellows to create highlights.

3. Use the brush to go back into the leaves and create branches peeking out among the leaves. Do this only in the most foreground tree.



MOUNTING THE ARTIST PROFILE SLIP [2 minutes]

(Profile slips for each artist are provided. They give a brief description of the artist, the technique, and the media used in the art activity. They should be mounted on the back of each art project after it is completed.)

1. Write your name on the front of the artist profile slip.
2. Using glue, mount the profile slip on the back of your artwork.
3. Encourage children to discuss their artwork with others using this artist slip of information.

CONCLUSION

Remember the Paris Salon where Monet tried to submit his paintings for exhibition?

(YES) Let's make this our _____ Salon (family name or homeschool group) and exhibit your beautiful masterpieces like Monet. I vote to accept your painting into our very important exhibit.

THIS CONCLUDES THE CLAUDE MONET UNIT.