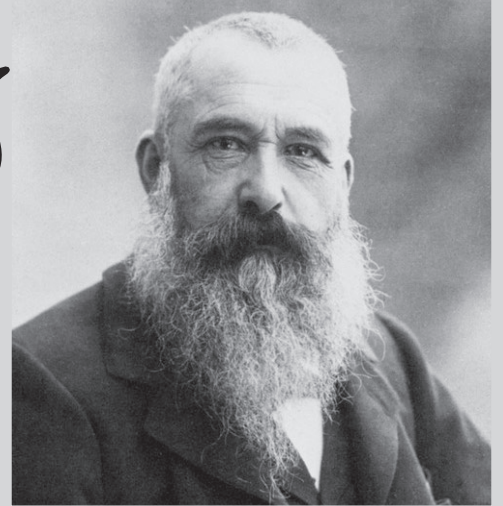
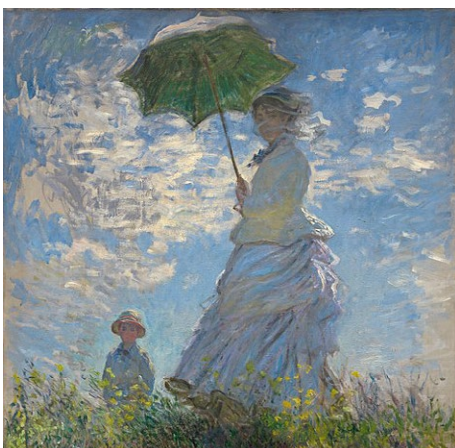


# Claude Monet

1840 –  
1926



Impression, Sunrise (1872)



Woman with a Parasol (1875)

Claude Monet was born in Paris in 1840. He grew up in Le Havre, a port in Normandy, and demonstrated great artistic talent from an early age. In 1856, Monet was influenced by a meeting with Eugène Boudin, a French painter noted for his seascapes. He taught Monet how to use oil paints.

Later, Monet moved back to Paris and met fellow painters, Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Alfred Sisley. Together, they experimented with painting the effects of light while working outside ('en plein air'). In the 1860s, the painters exhibited their works and impressionism was born. The name 'impressionism' comes from a painting Monet exhibited called 'Impression, Sunrise'.

As well as painting landscapes, impressionists painted everyday scenes. Painting an everyday scene was considered radical at the time because most artists took inspiration from battle scenes, Bible passages or Greek myths.



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Water Lilies (1906)



Haystacks:  
End of summer (1891)



Haystacks:  
Effect of Snow and Sun (1891)

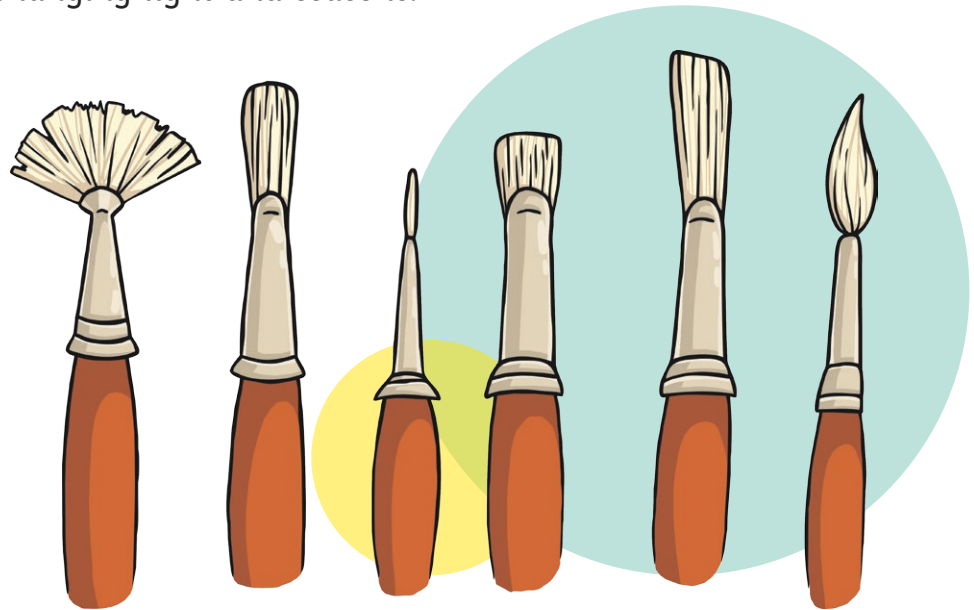


Weeping Willow (1918-19)

Impressionists did not want to paint a realistic picture but an 'impression' of what they could see. These artists used thick layers of paint and fast brushstrokes. Before this movement, artists usually painted in a studio and created perfect landscape scenes.

Following a few years of travelling, Monet settled in Giverny, France. While he lived here, he spent many hours painting the water lilies and the bridge in his water garden. Huge paintings of the water lilies were displayed in a purpose-built, curved room at Musée de l'Orangerie, Paris. Monet attempted the reflection of the light on the water.

He often painted the same scene many times to capture the changing light and seasons.



During the First World War, Monet painted a series of weeping willow trees to represent fallen French soldiers.

Later in life, Monet began to suffer from poor eyesight, caused by cataracts. As a result, he added reddish tones to his work. He also repainted some of his works of art, adding blue tones.

Monet developed lung cancer at the age of 86, and he died on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1926. He was buried in Giverny cemetery. He was one of the most significant painters in the history of art, and he created many of the world's most iconic oil paintings.

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