

Claude Monet 1840-1926

- Claude Monet was born in Paris on November 14th, 1840.
- His family later moved to Le Havre, on the coast.
- As a teenager Monet became known as a caricaturist (someone who draws caricatures of people).
- The landscape painter Eugène Boudin saw Monet's drawings.
- He encouraged Monet to learn to paint 'en plein air' , (in the open air).
- By 1859 Monet was certain he wanted to be an artist.
- He went to Paris to learn more about art. This made his parents quite cross.
- He made friends with other artists and studied their work.
- He decided that he wanted to experiment with light and colour more than traditional artists did.
- Monet liked to paint outdoors and used colour and light to give shape to things.
- He did not try to paint individual details but preferred to create an 'impression' of how they looked.
- At first nobody liked his paintings much and people laughed at them.
- He was quite poor and often in debt but he refused to give up.
- Eventually people began to like his paintings and a new term was given to his style 'Impressionism'.
- By 1900 he was quite famous.
- Unfortunately his eyesight began to fail and he did not have very good health.
- Working from his home in Giverny he began painting the water lilies growing on the large pond in his gardens.
- Many of these paintings are now his most famous works.
- Monet died at his home on December 5, 1926 aged 86.

Want to know more?

- Try browsing the web to find websites about the life and work of Claude Monet.
- Visit your local or school library for books about Claude Monet and other Impressionist artists.
- Find out if there are any art galleries near you which have paintings by Claude Monet on display and visit them.