

Sea and Learn – Lesson Plan: Seascapes

Key Stage: One

National Curriculum Links: 1b, 2c, 3a, 3b, 4c

Main Subject Focus: Art

Learning Outcomes:

Children will:

- Have an opportunity to discuss and form opinions about the works of Monet
- Be able to produce a seascape in the style of Monet

Resources Required:

- Watercolour paints – NOT ready-mix
- Paintbrushes, water pots, cartridge paper
- Painting aprons/shirts
- A variety of seascapes painted by Monet for discussion

Lesson Structure:

1. Introduce the lesson by showing children examples of Monet's seascapes work (See Teacher's Notes) and discuss how he has portrayed the sea. Ask questions related to tone and colour.
2. Now give children the opportunity to experiment with the paint a little, with a view to creating their own seascape. Ask them to investigate different brushstrokes, e.g. flattening the tip of the brush or pointing it. Also ask them to explore different ways in applying the paint to the paper, e.g. using sponges, cotton buds, dripping or splattering paint to create different effects/textures.
3. Finally, ask children to select one the paintings by Monet that they wish to reproduce in their own style. Give them a choice of paper size (A5 – A3). The children must NOT draw their picture first and then paint it.
4. Once their paintings are finished and dry, ask the children to comment in the same way about their own paintings as they did about Monet's.
5. Finally, make a classroom or corridor display with the original paintings as a comparison and if possible, a selection of comments from the children.

Extension/Homework Ideas:

- Ask the children to paint or draw their own seascapes from memory.

Sea and Learn – Teacher’s Notes (1)

Claude Monet (1840 – 1926)

- Grew up in Le Havre, France, where an aunt first financed his painting studies.
- Later, in Paris, he met and was influenced by future Impressionist colleagues Sisley, Van Gogh, Cézanne, Pissaro, Degas and Renoir.
- It was Monet's painting of the Le Havre harbour in Impression, Sunrise, which gave the fledgling movement its name. At this time many artists became interested in representing the impression that a landscape, a painting or an object created rather than copying it accurately. This style of painting is known as impressionism.
- He was a leading figure in the Impressionists' first group exhibition in 1874, Impression was new and radical and despite some negativity, some people liked the work. These private collectors supported their style and bought the paintings, promoting their works in Paris and abroad.
- Before the Impressionists, people in academic institutions controlled which art ideas were deemed important and what artists should paint.
- Impressionism painted people in their everyday lives doing everyday things. Impressionism also focused on nature. Monet often painted outdoors, and then carefully reworked the details of his canvases in his studio.
- The public discovered his work by 1890, and his fortunes quickly improved. By 1920, the painter who once had struggled to feed and clothe his family complained about the “too-frequent visits from buyers who often disturb and bore me.”
- Monet used a small, typical Impressionist palette of eight to ten colours. **“The real point,” he wrote a friend “is to know how to use the colours.”** Despite failing eyesight, the artist painted well into his eighties.

Information collated from: www.impression.org

Monet’s Seascapes

The following seascapes painted by Monet will provide an excellent stimulus:

- 1866 - Marine, Effet de Nuit / Seascape, Night Effect
- 1872 - Soleil Levant / Impression Sunrise
- 1874 - Les Barques, régates à Argenteuil / Boats, Regatta at Argenteuil
- 1881 - Mer Agitée / Rough Sea – View from the Beach
- 1883 - Etretat, mer agitée / Rough Sea at Etretat
- 1886 - Storm off the Belle Ile Coast

Sea and Learn – Teacher’s Notes (1)

Useful Websites:

www.monet-on-canvas.com

www.the-athenaeum.org/art/disp_by_artist.php?Artist_ID=13

www.personal.kent.edu/~rberrong/monetgallery/monetweb.htm

These websites provide excellent examples of the seascapes, which you can share with the children.