

Monet's Own Ecosystem

Third grade

Adapted by M. Goldman

Core Subject Area

Science

Art Form +Elements

Visual Arts

MSCCR Standard

L.3.4 Students will demonstrate an understanding of how adaptations allow animals to satisfy life needs and respond both physically and behaviorally to their environment.

MSCCR Creative Arts Standards

VA: Cr1.2.3 Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work. INVESTIGATE / PLAN / MAKE a. Apply knowledge of available resources, tools, and technologies to investigate personal ideas through the artmaking process.

Materials Needed: Cardstock paper, Leaves, Scissors, Tempera paint, rubber bands

Vocabulary:

Impressionism

Ecosystem

Habitat

Environmental change

Water lilies
Brushstrokes
Primary colors
Hues
Value

Duration: 60 minutes/ Could be split into two segments

1. TW introduce the ecosystem of wetlands. TW provide examples of living and nonliving things that may be around a wetland. (reed, water lily, willow tree, insects, duck, minnow, water snake, fresh water, thick layer of wet soil, medium temperatures)
2. TW provide a visual example of a wetland ecosystem.
<https://geochange.er.usgs.gov/sw/impacts/hydrology/wetlands/inland.jpg>
3. As students look at the image, they predict the wildlife that may live there.
4. TW ask questions about why wildlife such as sharks would not live in that environment.
5. Show video of a pond ecosystem.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0hQRZ8Oh4ko>
6. TT will introduce Claude Monet. A biography is attached to the lesson.
7. TS will recreate the scene of water lilies.
8. TS will bundle leaves together and bundle them with a rubber band or tie with yarn.

9. TS cut the top of the leaf bundle, making slits to create a "brush".
10. TW pour paint onto wax paper. Use only primary colors and white and have students mix their own hues.
11. Talk about the light, the time of day, the time of year and anything else in the environment.
12. Start painting. Add smaller details with a rolled leaf. Simply roll up the leaf, like a scroll, and use the end as a paintbrush.
13. As the artwork is drying, have students partnershare what animals may live in the habitat.
14. TW walk around and ask about the ecosystem and check for students' understanding.

Resources

<http://www.minimonetsandmommies.com>

[The Little Monet](#) by Catherine de Duve (used as resource for background information on Monet)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0hQRZ8Oh4ko>

Background information on Claude Monet

- Monet was born in Paris, France, on November 14th, 1840. His family moved to Normandy when he was five years old.

- Monet would get bored at school and draw funny pictures on his teachers.
- One day in Normandy, he met an artist named Eugene Boudin. This artist became his mentor.
- Monet noticed that he painted outdoors instead of in a studio.
- At 18 years old, he went to study art in Paris. He wanted to study art, but was drafted into the French army and was sent to Algeria.
- Upon his return, he joined with a Swiss artist and began to work on his art. It was there that he met other artists like Renoir. The artists worked and created a new style of art that we call Impressionism.
- Monet was a poor artist. He was not selling any of his paintings.
- One summer, Renoir brought a loaf of bread, and he and Monet went to a favorite summer spot and painted. The spot was called "the frog pond" in English.
- The style of art that he painted was considered by many as sloppy and unfinished, and they would not display it.
- Monet organized his own exhibit and displayed the painting *Impression, Sunrise*.
- An art critic saw the work and said, "This isn't a painting! It's just a sketch, an impression!"

- Monet liked the term impression and said, " I am, and always will be, an Impressionist!"
- He finally became a famous artist. He bought a house and created gardens to paint.
- Monet created a "water garden" near his house. He had a large hole dug and guided water from a nearby river to fill the hole. It created a pond (ecosystem). He added water lilies and weeping willows. He would ask friends to come and see his "masterpiece". He loved the way he could see reflections in the water. He painted this masterpiece, and it is one of his most famous paintings.