claude monet

BOATS AT PETIT-GENNEVILLIERS

CONCEPTS: Light and color, sea-scapes

OBJECTIVE: Students will create artwork that focuses on light and color using tempera paints to give the "feel" of an Impressionist sea-scape.

ABOUT MONET: Read artist fact sheet to students.

VOCABULARY TERM: "En plein air" is the French term for painting outside in the open air. The goal of the 'en plein air artist' was to "capture moments of sunlight". Monet was one of the firsts to paint outside with his friend Eugene Boudin. The two met when Monet was a young artist in Honfleur, France. Boudin encouraged the young Monet to give up his charchol caricatures and paint outside with him.

ABOUT THE PAINTING: Boats at Petit-Gennevilliers was painted in 1874. This painting was one of Monet's earlier paintings created a short while after his "Impression, Sunrise" which gave his style of painting the name Impressionism. This painting is filled with light, color, and soft brush strokes Monet is so well known and loved for.

ART APPRECIATION:

What do you like about this painting?

How do you feel when you look at this painting?

What is the first thing you notice? Why?

Are the colors in the sky different from the water? What colors are in the water that aren't blues, white, and greens. Why are they there? (reflections from the land, buildings, and boats).

Look at the reflections, the broken lines and large brush strokes. Which direction are they all going? *when painting water, you always paint horizontally.

LET'S CREATE A MASTERPIECE: We are going to make our own Monet painting today! Remember Impressionists are concerned with light and color.

1. Pick up a light colored crayon (green or blue) to use as we draw light lines before we paint.

2. First draw the horizon line. Notice it's a little lower than half.

3. Next, draw the boat shapes. Make skinny rectangles with a sloped front. Add a

tall mast line above and below the boat.

4. Now add the sail. Draw a triangle through the mast. Notice it's off-center and slopes up on the bottom right. Add wavy triangles below the boat for the reflections of the sail in the water.

5. Draw the hills, land and bushy trees. The trees are bumpy ovals with two lines connecting them to the bushes. Don't forget the bumpy line in the water under the hill. Finish with the wavy oval that is the reflection of the large trees.

6. Add two little fishing shacks. Look at the bottom corner of the step-by-step for detailed instruction on roof lines. Now it's time to add the line by the shacks and some details we need for painting. Draw long, stretched-out ovals and rectangles for reflections in the water. Draw some soft curved lines for the huge cloud.

7. The last detail is the little person. You can make a curved shape for his body and a small circle for his head. Now you are ready to paint!

8. Paint the sky and water with lots of white, a little bit of blue, and some purple. Remember to always paint the water side to side. After your background dries, paint your boats, trees, land, and reflections. Finish your masterpiece with little touches of yellow and blue in the sky, and blues and purples in the water. The last thing to do is add more white so your painting pops!

*remember when using tempera or acrylics, give each part a little drying time so that your colors do not muddy.

YOUNGER GRADE APPLICATION: Draw the horizon line. Draw one boat wtih a large triangle sail.Add the land lines and a few trees. Have the students paint the sails , sail reflections, and cloud white and then fill in the trees and hill. For the water, the students can use a few horizontal brush strokes in blue and green. They do not need to fill in the entire water.

OLDER GRADE APPLICATION: Look closely at the colors. See how Monet puts reds and greens right next to each other? Look at the whitest whites and darkest darks. Both of these techniques will really make your painting "POP". Try it. Notice how the reflections take the same shape of the object. Be careful as you place your rectangular reflections so that your colors do not become too mixed.

GREAT ARTiST PROGRAM