

Impressionism: Pathways to Modernity For children



COVER

Edgar Degas

(Paris, 1834–Paris, 1917)

The Racecourse. Amateur

Jockeys near a Carriage

1876–87

Oil on canvas

Paris, Musée d'Orsay,

bequest of Count Isaac

de Camondo, 1911

Photo © RMN-Grand Palais

(musée d'Orsay)

/ Tony Querrec

Let me tell you...

A story about modernity

Around the 1850s, a group of painters called the Impressionists came together in France. They made several exhibitions together between 1874 and 1886. The group painted spontaneously outdoors*, rather than working from sketches in a studio. The main impressionist subjects were landscapes and scenes of everyday life. The most famous impressionist painters were Claude Monet, Auguste Renoir, Paul Cézanne, Alfred Sisley and Berthe Morisot.

Discover the birth and the evolution of the Impressionist group through a series of fun and engaging activities.

Get your pencils ready!



Find your way through the exhibition by following this symbol.

The accompanying numbers will help you with your journey step by step.

Tip: Use the glossary to better understand certain words marked with an asterisk* within your booklet.

Your Glossary

Academy of Fine Arts

An institution created in 1648 that trains artists and sets the rules of representation.

Easel

A support used to hold an artist's painting.

Brushstroke, also called "touch"

The way in which paint is put on to a surface with a brush.

Outdoor painting

An artwork made outside, in nature, while having the chosen subject in front of you.

Still life

A painting of inanimate objects, like fruit or flowers.

Studio

A place where an artist works.



1



2

Edouard Manet / Claude Monet

1 - Claude Monet,
*Woman at
the garden*,
Photo ©
RMN-Grand
Palais (musée
d'Orsay) / Hervé
Lewandowski

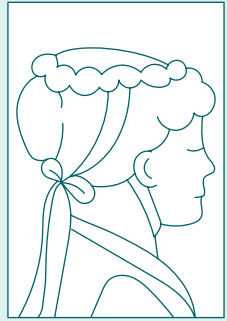
2 - Edouard Manet,
The balcony,
Photo ©
RMN-Grand
Palais (musée
d'Orsay) / Hervé
Lewandowski

Edouard Manet and Claude Monet both received a lot of criticism when their paintings were shown to the public. Their painting technique was considered very modern in style.

Let's take a closer look at the details of the painting. Notice how blurry the faces of the painted characters are.

Did you know?

Claude Monet painted this canvas directly in his garden. In order to be able to paint over the entire surface of the canvas, he dug a large hole in the ground to insert the painting and place it at his eye level!



Take inspiration from the faces
painted by Manet and Monet
to represent yourself
or a loved one.



The love of landscape

Did you know?



The very first photograph in history was taken by Nicéphore Niépce in France in 1826.

Louis Adolphe Humbert de Molard, *Farms in the Snow, Argentelle*
Photo © RMN-Grand Palais (musée d'Orsay) / image RMN-GP

Representation of nature is very important for photographers and impressionist painters. The subjects are identical. It is therefore very easy to compare photos and paintings.

Use the photograph to help find a similar artwork in the room.

Write down the title of the artwork and look for the similarities and differences between the two.

Artist's name _____
Title _____
Year _____
Material _____



Impressions, nature and seasons around 1874

Claude Monet made this painting during his stay around the countryside in Etretat, a small French village. Doesn't it look cold? If you look carefully at the landscape, you will realise that there is not only one but several shades of white!

List the different colours, shades, that you notice.





1874: The first Impressionist exhibition

In 1874, during the first Impressionist exhibition, Berthe Morisot got noticed because of this painting. It depicts a scene of love and affection between a mother and her child.

Berthe Morisot,
The Cradle
Photo © RMN-
Grand Palais
(musée d'Orsay) /
Michel Urtado

Did you know?

At the time of the Impressionist painters, women artists did not have the same rights as men artists. Women were not allowed to study at the Academy of Fine Arts* until 1897, 250 years after its creation.

How does this painting make you feel?

Can you remember a time when
you experienced this emotion?



Impression, impressionism

With his many brushstrokes, Alfred Sisley has captured the movement of the people, as well as the movement of the water and the wind.



Now take a step back. Does this painting seem to be in motion? What elements in this scene give you this impression?

Alfred Sisley,
*The Regatta
at Molesey*
Photo ©
RMN-Grand
Palais (musée
d'Orsay) / Hervé
Lewandowski

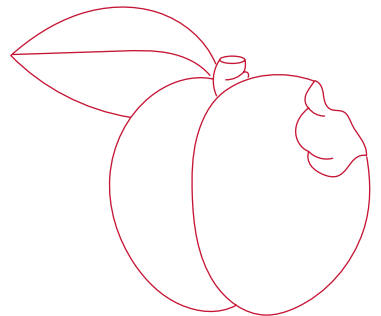




Renoir and Cézanne distance themselves

At the beginning of his career, the artist Paul Cézanne studied the works of Jean Baptiste Siméon Chardin a great painter of still lifes* during the 1750.

J. B. Siméon
Chardin, *Still Life
with Tin Pitcher
and Peaches*
Photo ©
Staatliche
Kansthalle
Karlsruhe





Compare the artworks of these two artists to identify their differences and similarities. You can use the list below as a guide.

Objects _____

Shapes _____

Light _____

Colours _____

Perspective _____



The enduring water lilies

Monet again? He is everywhere!
In this painting, the artist uses very
bright colours and abstract shapes
to express his anxiety and sadness
about the First World War
(1914- 1918).

Claude Monet,
Weeping Willow
Photo © RMN-
Grand Palais
(musée d'Orsay) /
Adrien Didierjean



Choose an emotion from the following list.

Joy - Sadness - Anger - Fear - Love

Using Claude Monet as your inspiration,
express your chosen emotion in the space below.

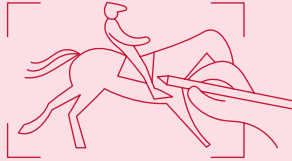
To go further



Scan me!

Well done, you have completed all the steps of the path! But it's not over yet... Complete this drawing and bring it to life by downloading the free application BlinkBook.

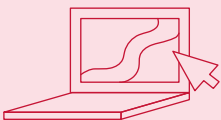
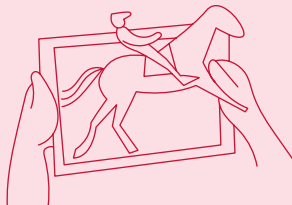
1. Colour



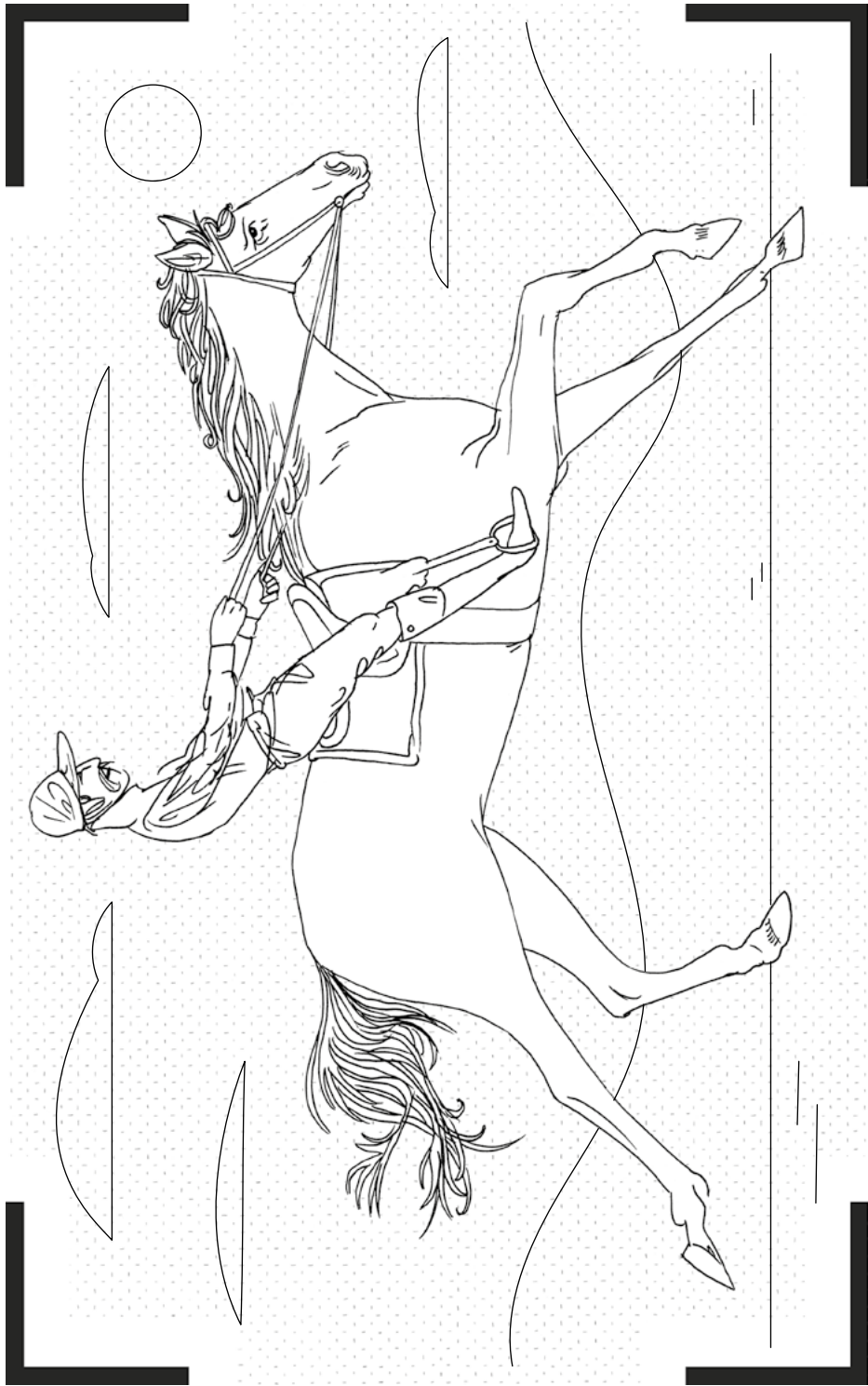
2. Take a picture



3. Magic! It's moving



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