

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will have a deeper understanding of Impressionism, its key characteristics, and notable artists. They will also create their own impressionistic artwork, applying the techniques learned during the lesson.

Materials and Prep

- Paper (preferably watercolor or thick art paper)
- Paints (watercolors or acrylics)
- Brushes (various sizes)
- Palette for mixing colors
- Water cup for rinsing brushes
- Paper towels or cloth for cleanup
- Internet access for research (optional)

Before the lesson, familiarize yourself with key Impressionist artists such as Claude Monet, Edgar Degas, and Pierre-Auguste Renoir, and their famous works.

Activities

- **Art Exploration:**

Begin by exploring a few famous Impressionist paintings online. Discuss what makes these works unique. Pay attention to the use of light, color, and brush strokes.

- **Technique Practice:**

Try out different brush techniques that are characteristic of Impressionism, such as short, quick strokes and dabbing. Experiment with mixing colors to see how light affects color perception.

- **Create Your Own Impressionist Painting:**

Using the techniques practiced, create an original piece inspired by Impressionism. Choose a subject like a landscape, a garden, or a scene from daily life.

- **Reflection and Discussion:**

After completing the artwork, reflect on the process. Discuss what you learned about Impressionism and how it felt to create art in this style.

Talking Points

- "Impressionism is all about capturing a moment in time, often focusing on the effects of light and color."
- "Key artists like Monet and Renoir wanted to break away from traditional techniques. They painted outdoors to capture natural light."
- "Notice how Impressionist paintings often look different from up close versus from a distance. This is part of their charm!"
- "Impressionists used quick brush strokes to convey movement and spontaneity. Can you see how that might change the feeling of a painting?"
- "Think about how color can express emotion. In Impressionism, colors are often bright and vibrant, which adds to the mood."

- "Creating art should be fun and experimental! Don't worry about perfection; focus on expressing your feelings through your work."