



MONET IN A BOX: DISCOVER IMPRESSIONISM

Note: we recommend teaching our Monet Box in this order: [Discover Impressionism + Sky Swatch Watercolor Practice](#), [Meet Madame Monet](#), [Water Lilies](#), [Poppy Field Trifold](#), [Painting En Plein Air](#)

Materials:

INCLUDED

- 4x6 Watercolor Paper
- Watercolors with Paintbrush
- Water Cups (Save for Reuse)

YOU'LL NEED

- Water
- Paper towels

Introduction: Claude Monet:

- Watch [this Video from the Tate Museum about Impressionism](#)
- Who was Claude Monet?
 - **Founder of Impressionism** – Monet's painting *Impression, Sunrise* (1872) inspired the name of the Impressionist movement, which revolutionized art with its focus on light, color, and loose brushstrokes.
 - **Loved Painting Outdoors** – Monet preferred painting en plein air (outside) to capture how light changed throughout the day,

leading to his famous series paintings like *Haystacks* and *Rouen Cathedral*.

- **Created His Own Garden** – Monet designed and planted the gardens at his home in Giverny, France, which became the inspiration for many of his paintings, including his iconic *Water Lilies* series.
- **Struggled with Vision** – Later in life, Monet developed cataracts, which altered his color perception. Some of his later paintings have a warmer, reddish hue because of his vision changes.
- **Painted the Same Subject Many Times** – Monet was fascinated by how light and atmosphere changed a scene. He painted the same subject at different times of day and in different seasons, like his series of haystacks, bridges, and water lilies.
- [View the Slideshow](#) demonstrating Monet's series of the Houses of Parliament.
- *Discuss the images:*
 - *How does the sky change throughout the day?*
 - *How does the sky change depending on the weather?*
 - *Describe the sky when there is a sunset.*
 - *Describe the sky on a warm, summer's day.*
 - *Describe the sky when there is a storm.*

Sky Swatch Watercolor Practice:

- ★ Display the last slide in [the Slideshow](#).
- ★ Give each student a 4x6 piece of watercolor paper.
- ★ Have each student choose a time of day, season, and the weather.
- ★ Have the students mix and layer colors to create an Impressionist-style sky featuring their chosen time, season, and weather.
- ★ Encourage dabbing and overlapping colors to create an atmospheric effect.

Links:

- [Launch Page](#)
- [Discover Impressionism + Sky Swatch Watercolor Practice](#)
- [Meet Madame Monet](#)
- [Water Lilies](#)
- [Poppy Field Trifold](#)
- [Painting En Plein Air](#)