

**Teacher Lesson Plans Downloadable**  
Science Box/

Title: What's Your Impression?

Primary Subject: Art/Lights

Grade Level: 2-6

Provided by: Laura McNulty, Gifted and Talented teacher with the Pine Bluff School District

Time: Approximately 2-3 hours

Objective:

To learn about and experience impressionism

Vocabulary:

Impression, sur le motif, plein air

Materials needed:

Paper for painting

Watercolor paints

Clipboard

Paint brush

Jar with lid for water

Before beginning:

- Read "Linnea in Monet's Garden" by Christina Bjork
- Show the class reproductions of several of Claude Monet's paintings, especially "Impression: Sunrise."

Introduction

Impressionism is a style of painting characterized by an artist's abstract interpretation of objects or scenes. Unmixed primary colors and small brush strokes are used to simulate actual reflected light. The word "Impressionism" was used for the first time in the French magazine "Charivari" on April 25, 1874. Art critic Louis Leroy was shocked by Monet's new artist style, which broke away from traditional, realistic painting. Leroy thought his work looked like blobs of paint that barely suggested reality. Unwittingly, Leroy named the most important artistic phenomenon of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century after Monet's painting, "Impression: Sunrise."

Influenced by Eugene Boudin, a seascape artist who practiced painting outside (plein air), Monet abandoned his art studio and painted on location (sur le motif). He achieved a fresh impression of nature by capturing transient light and color. His brush strokes were simple and unblended on the canvas which created a shimmering sensation of light.

Instructions:

Take students outside to a garden, courtyard or park. Ask them to paint their impressions of the landscape.

Closure:

Discuss what it might have felt like to have been an impressionist painter. What influenced their work – wind, temperature, the season, the amount of light, the view? Have students title their pictures “Impression: \_\_\_\_\_” (fill in the blank) and write it on the back. Hand the pictures on the board. Ask the student to guess the titles.

The Arts & Science Center for Southeast Arkansas, located at 701 Main St. in Pine Bluff, is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 1-4 p.m. Saturday and closed on Sunday. Support for the center is provided in part by the Arkansas Arts Council, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information, contact the center at (870) 536-3375 or visit the website at [www.artssciencecenter.org](http://www.artssciencecenter.org).