

## Impressionism

Impressionism is an art movement or style that started in the mid 1800s in France. Art movement is an artistic style that can be seen in works of art used by many artists. What makes artists belong to an art movement is the similarity of the techniques used, subject of their works, and goals.

Impressionism broke the rules of traditional classical painting in terms of content and style. Traditional movement focused on historical subjects, religious themes, and portraits. The style was very conservative and had to mirror reality. However, it did not take into consideration the emotions or feelings of the artists. For example, traditional portraits focused on having the main subject always in the center of the painting and backgrounds were not considered very important. Traditional painting took place indoors.

Impressionism moved away from the traditional painting. It focused on painting nature, landscapes, and still life. Impressionists would paint subjects like fields and oceans. When painting people, they would focus on regular people, not royal figures or religious people. Their paintings stressed on the background and the main people were usually painted off to the side instead of in the center of the painting. Impressionists also paid great attention to the effect of light on the subjects of their paintings. Some painters even drew the same thing, but at different times or seasons so that they can capture the effect of the light.

In addition to the difference in content of the paintings, the style and technique used by the impressionists was also different. They used thick short brush strokes when painting, rather than smooth and unnoticeable ones and preferred using many colors to paint subjects of everyday life. This means that if you look at an impressionistic painting up close, the paint will seem blotchy, messy, and unreal. However, when you take a step back, the subject of the painting seems clear and can be seen as a whole. Impressionists also mainly painted outdoors.

Some of the main painters in the impressionistic movement are:

- Paul Cezanne
- Edgar Degas
- Edouard Manet
- Claude Monet
- Pierre-Auguste Renoir
- Alfred Sisley

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Impressionism (Cont'd)**

There was also a movement at the end of the 1800s that was called Post-Impressionism. Most Post-Impressionists began as impressionists and followed the impressionistic art movement. However, they felt that impressionism was constricted, and they wanted to try out new ideas. They wanted to expand the impressionistic art movement and employed imaginative use of color and different approaches to form. They used daring, bold, and arbitrary unrealistic colors. Examples of post-impressionistic painters are Vincent Van Gogh and Paul Gaughin.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Impressionism Questions

### Multiple Choice:

1. Traditional classical painting:

- a. Was always done outdoors
- b. Focused on the background in a painting
- c. Relied on smooth and unnoticeable brush strokes
- d. Took into consideration the feelings and emotions of the artist

2. Impressionistic painting:

- a. Stressed on the background
- b. Used thick short brush strokes
- c. Focused on landscapes, nature, and still life
- d. All of the above

3. Impressionism started in:

- a. The mid 1700s in France
- b. The mid 1800s in France
- c. The mid 1800s in Italy
- d. The mid 1900s in Italy

### Matching:

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Traditional classical painting

a. Used daring, bold, and arbitrary unrealistic colors

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Impressionistic painting

b. Focused on painting historical figures and religious themes.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Post-Impressionistic painting

c. Paid great attention to the effect of light on objects

### List three Impressionistic painters:

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Impressionism Answers

### Multiple Choice:

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Paul Cezanne  
Edgar Degas  
Edouard Manet  
Claude Monet  
Pierre-Auguste Renoir  
Alfred Sisley