

Tuesday, December 4, 2018, Feast

Teachers - **Lunch is at 1130 for elementary teachers.** Please make sure that your class has eaten lunch, packed up, and done chores before noon. Since primary does not do Shakespeare, The Feast for them begins at 100.

Picture Study — Claude Monet

Our first artist is the 19th century French artist Claude Monet. We take about twenty minutes, at most, to go through the process. The students start by sharing a few things that they remember from pictures studied previously. The teacher needs to listen. Then the teacher gives each child a painting and asks them all to study it quietly for a minute or two. After quiet study, the teacher allows pairs of children to share with each other what they notice. When the conversation lulls, the teacher picks up the pictures and students take turns sharing what they remember. Their memories are so good, there is no need to ask questions. The lesson ends when the class runs out of things to say.

Some students have questions of their own. To help the teacher answer them, we have a card for each painting. Attached (and online via the school's button for The Feast) is the material for six paintings so that you have time to prepare in advance. You do not need to read the whole thing to students but you can share quotes or paraphrases that tie into something a student said. You may want to share a few tidbits about the artist. Reading the whole card would be too tiresome to younger students so doing less is best!

Each class will have its own picture study schedule.

- Primary A - "Garden at Sainte Adresse"
- Primary B - "Jean Monet on His Hobby Horse"
- Elementary A and B - "The Manneporte (Étretat)"
- Middle and High School - "La Grenouillère"

Handwork —

All classes will focus on nature study through Christmas to sharpen all of our understanding of this process. Be sure to note when (date) and where (location) you found it. Make sure something you can identify by its common and scientific name (the Latin name). It should be something simple like a pecan or leaf or something easy to draw and identify. The focus is nature study, not painting, drawing, or art.

Each student needs their paint tray, a paper towel, a small paintbrush, and a piece of paper to test colors. This video demonstrates the process (a video is worth a million words). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uJE7qlkj2Xo>

Their Observation

- Have children spend one minute doing quiet observation.
- Allow time for kids to talk to each other about what they've observed.
- Allow time to share with the group what they've observed.

Teacher's Observation

- Share what you observe if they missed anything.
- Tell what you know (yes, it is okay to look up the item in advance).

Notebook Entry

- All classes need to write the date and the location where the item was found.
- All classes need to write the common name and the scientific name (Latin) which can be found by looking it up online.
- Encourage them to name the shapes they see and try to draw based on what they see. If they struggle, then draw on the board to demonstrate.
- Make a pool of yellow to do the outline. Dip the brush in water and then the yellow. Keep doing that until wet. Then dip the brush in the yellow and move it to a tray. The tray is for mixing colors.
- Pat the brush on the paper towel before dipping in the paint to make an outline or paint anything. The brush will stay dry and the student will have more control. The paper will not get very wet which is what we are avoiding.
- Make the outline in yellow which is a good color to mix with almost anything natural. They will be happier if they have made a large enough outline.
- In the video uses green from the tray, but I recommend making your own green. It is more fun!
- If you need green, have them make their own green because it is more interesting that way. Make another pool of yellow on the lid and make a new pool of blue. Transfer from the blue to the new yellow to get green. Dry the paintbrush on the towel, dip it in green, and test it on the paper. They may want to make a little pool of red or brown and put some dips into the green. Keep adjusting the color until the desired green appears.
- When painting, dry the brush first. Hold it like a pencil. Use quick, short strokes.
- Decide which side of the object is lighter and which side is darker (shading). Apply more paint to the darker areas and less paint to the lighter parts.
- Do not add black to darken a color! Black is overpowering. Add some dark blue or even brown, but not black.

- If there are more colors, make them, test them, and paint.
- Those who finish early can write what they know about the item.

Clean-up

- Do NOT wash out the lid. That is wasting good paint. Leave it open over night and they can add water and reuse the lid paint.
- Do NOT throw out the test paper. It, too, can be used again.
- If the paper towel has white areas left, save it. Let's be thrifty as we can.