

# LESSON PLAN

## FOCUS STYLE

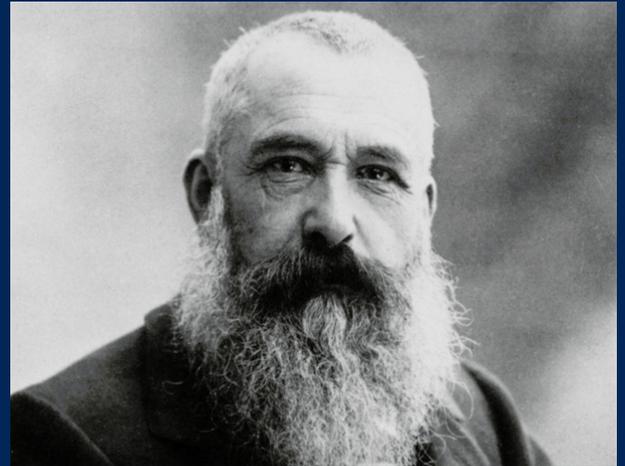
Impressionism - a style or movement in painting originating in France in the 1860's, characterized by focusing on the change of light and color and the passing seasons. Impressionism is based on the practice of painting out of doors and spontaneously 'on the spot' rather than in the studio from sketches. Main impressionist subjects were landscape and scenes of everyday life. Impressionism included the use of vibrant colors, honest poses and compositions. The paintings produced during this period were based on how the artist perceived their surroundings.

## FOCUS ARTISTS

### Claude Monet 1840-1926

Claude Monet was famous for his landscape paintings of the countryside and his paintings of the magnificent gardens on his property in Giverny, located in northern France. The term Impressionism is derived from the title of his painting *Impression, Sunrise*.

Monet was exceptionally fond of painting controlled nature: his own gardens in Giverny, with its water lilies, pond, and bridge. One of his most famous paintings was "Water Lilies" which is on exhibit at MOMA in New York City.



## Mary Cassatt 1844-1926

Mary Cassatt was described as one of "les trois grandes dames" (the three great ladies) of Impressionism. Cassatt began studying painting at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts at the early age of 15. Although about 20% of the students were female, most viewed art as a socially valuable skill; few of them were determined, as Cassatt was, to make art their career. Cassatt often created images of the social and private lives of women, with particular emphasis on the intimate bonds between mothers and children.



## William Merritt Chase 1849-1916

William Merritt Chase was an American painter, known as an exponent of Impressionism and as a teacher. He is also responsible for establishing the Chase School, which later would become Parsons School of Design. Chase is best remembered for two series of landscape subjects, both painted in an impressionist manner. The first was his scenes of Prospect and Central Parks in New York; the second were his summer landscapes at Shinnecock.

