

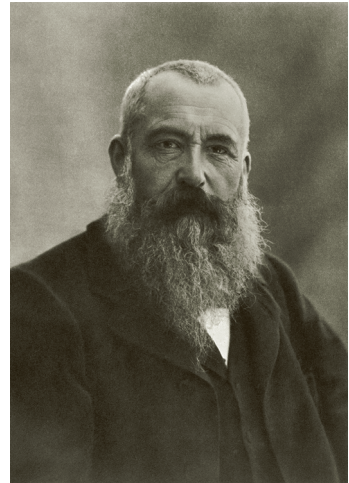
Read the passage about Claude Monet and answer the questions that follow.

Art Words

- Landscape — a painting that shows a large area of land as it is viewed from one place
- Canvas — a surface for painting made from cloth stretched over a wooden frame
- Sketches — quick, rough drawings of something

Claude Monet

by Anne Maley



The Man in the Boat

- 1 It was a sunny morning on the river. The water slapped softly at a boat moving through the water. A man was rowing the boat, but he was not a fisherman on his way out to catch a fish. He was an artist on his way out to paint a landscape. The boat was his floating studio, or working place.
- 2 The man found a spot on the river and began to set up his easel. Then he watched and waited. When the light looked just right, he began to paint. He covered his white canvas with the colors of trees, water, and sky. When people looked at his painting later, he wanted them to see what he had seen—an early summer morning on the river.

3 The man in the boat lived long ago in France. He was an artist who loved the outdoors. Most of all, he loved the water. His name was Claude Monet. He is known as one of the greatest landscape painters who ever lived.

The Young Artist

4 Claude Monet was born in France in 1840. He spent his early years in a town where a great river ran into the sea. Claude loved the sea.

5 As a child, Claude was always sketching. People liked Claude's sketches. By working hard, Claude could sketch eight pictures a day and sell them.

6 By the time he was fifteen, Claude was already a famous artist in his home town. He sold his sketches to a shop, which hung them in the window. The shop also showed the work of another artist, named Mr. Boudin.

7 One day the two artists met at the shop. Mr. Boudin said to Claude, "So, young man, it's you who does these little sketches. They have something in them, but why not try painting? I will be happy to give you lessons."

8 At first Claude had no answer. He didn't like Mr. Boudin's paintings. He wasn't sure that he wanted Mr. Boudin to teach him to paint. Finally, Claude agreed.

9 Mr. Boudin taught Claude how to paint sunlight and shadows. He taught Claude a great deal about painting. When the lessons ended, Claude knew that he wanted to be a painter for the rest of his life. At the age of seventeen, Claude went to the city of Paris to study more about art.

The Difficult Years

10 Art school was not what Claude had expected. The teachers at art school said that artists should paint in studios, not outdoors. They had many rules for what to paint and how to paint it. Claude could not follow these rules. He said, "I can paint only what I see."

11 Claude became very unhappy. He finally left Paris, but he held onto his ideas, and he kept on painting. Claude painted landscapes in parks, near rivers, and beside the sea.

12 Claude also painted large pictures, like “Women in the Garden.” He painted this picture on a canvas that was eight feet tall. First he painted as much of the canvas as he could reach. Then he connected wires to the canvas. He dug a hole and lowered the canvas into the hole. After he had painted the top of the canvas, he used the wires to lift the canvas out of the hole. The painting was finished.



13 Years went by. Claude ***Women in the Garden*** painted many pictures, but he sold very few. Still, Claude never gave up. He loved his work and hoped that one day others would love it, too.

The Water Garden

14 When Claude Monet was forty-two years old, he and other artists had a large show in Paris. Monet’s paintings were among the best-selling works in the show. Monet felt proud and happy.

15 After that, Monet and his family moved to a house in the country. Monet planted two gardens that are still there today. One was a flower garden. The other was a water garden.

16 Monet made his water garden in the shape of a pear. Around the sides he grew many kinds of flowers and trees. Then he built a high wooden bridge across one end. Water lilies of many colors floated in the water. When it was done, Monet called his garden “a mirror of the sky.”

17 Monet found great happiness in looking at his gardens and in painting them. His last great work was a group of eight paintings of the water garden called *Water Lilies*. He painted these as a gift to France, his country. Today these paintings still hang in a special place in Paris.

18 Each of the eight paintings shows a different part of the water garden. As you move from one painting to another, you seem to walk around the garden from beginning to end. Because of the way Monet painted these works, you see the garden from morning until night. Walking among these paintings is like spending a whole day in Claude Monet's garden.

19 Monet painted his *Water Lilies* until the day he died at the age of eighty-six. He was almost blind, but he kept on painting. He did not just want to paint, he needed to paint. As he put it, "I paint just as a bird sings."



Water Lilies