

## ACTIVITY

# Using the work of Monet (water lily paintings)

## Time

2 hours

## Resources

Newspaper to cover tables

Per pair of children:

Blue, green pink and purple

pearlescent paint

Green, white, yellow and crimson

ready-mixed colours

1 water pot

1 palette

For each child:

1 large long-handled brush

1 medium long-handled brush

A3 cartridge paper

Test paper

For the teacher:

Access to Monet's water lily paintings

Information about Monet on page 83

## National Curriculum

2a, 4a, 5a



James Latham, Year 1

## Note

The contrast between pearlescent paint and the flat colour of ready-mixed paint is attractive and helps to differentiate between the plants and the water.

## Introduction

*Monet was a French artist who loved painting outside. He would often paint the same scene over and over again to capture the light, the time of year and the mood. He had a beautiful garden and he spent years and years painting different views of it. In this garden he had a water lily pond that he loved to paint. You are going to paint a picture a bit like his. You will paint the water and then the lily pads and the lily flowers floating on it.*

## Practical activity

- \* Show the children some of Monet's water lily paintings and discuss the differences between the different versions, the colours, the scale of the picture (some of Monet's paintings are huge) and the composition.
- \* Point out that you can see his brush strokes, and say that in their paintings their brush strokes will show too.
- \* Tell the children to paint the whole of the background in streaks of blue and green pearlescent paint. The blues and greens should vary a little.
- \* Explain that it is important that the brush strokes go from side to side, horizontally, across the page, as this will help to create the illusion of water. If the brushstrokes are painted vertically or in different directions, the background will not look quite so much like water. This might seem like a small point, but it makes all the difference.
- \* Next, they should add a few horizontal streaks of lavender blue (made by mixing the blue and purple pearlescent paint).
- \* Tell children to switch now to the ready-mixed paint and mix the green and white, with a little yellow, to make a pale green. They should use variations of this colour to paint broad strokes dotted about the paper, to be the lily pads.
- \* Now they should use the medium brush to mix the pearlescent pink and ready-mixed white together to make a range of pinks, from deep pink to palest pink.
- \* Now they should paint, using a series of short brush strokes, the petals of the lilies.
- \* Lastly, they could add a dot or two of yellow in the centre of the flowers.