



CLAUDE MONET

Claude Monet was a famous painter. You have probably seen some of his paintings. Monet was born in 1840 in Paris, France. His mother died in 1857. Life was not easy for him, but he had talent. His talent helped him throughout his life. His art began in drawing little cartoon pictures. A man by the name of Boudin noticed Monet's talent and gave him his first painting lesson. He was the one who encouraged Monet to paint outdoors. His family was not very happy about his job as a painter.

Monet had to go to Northern Africa, but when he got back, he went to Paris to get some more painting lessons. Monet's paintings are famous for their impression of light. Most of his paintings were painted outdoors. In this time, most painting was done inside in a studio. Painting outdoors was a new idea with painting. The type of painting that he was doing is called Impressionism. More and more people began to like this style of painting.

Monet had bad eyesight and other health problems. This made it difficult to paint. But he painted until the day he died. One of his most famous paintings is of water lilies. Monet died of lung cancer at the age of 83.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. How did drawing outdoors change the way painting was done?
 - a. The paint dried out more easily, and so it was expensive.
 - b. Painting outdoors allowed painters to use natural light in their artwork.
 - c. Painting was done using darker colors.
2. Why were paintings done outdoors unusual?
 - a. They captured the light.
 - b. They portrayed the countryside.
 - c. Most paintings during this time were done indoors.
 - d. You were paid more for paintings done outside.
3. After reading the passage, what can you infer about why Monet's parents were disappointed with his decision to paint?
 - a. They wanted him to keep drawing cartoon pictures.
 - b. They didn't think it was the right job for him.
 - c. They didn't think it would be good for his health.
 - d. They didn't think highly of his teacher Boudin.
4. Which statement does not explain what made Monet such a good artist?
 - a. Monet loved to paint outdoors and use light in his paintings.
 - b. Monet was trained by Boudin and encouraged to paint outdoors.
 - c. Monet had little support from his parents.
 - d. Monet painted to the last day of his life.