



YEAR 7

IMPRESSIONISM – POST-IMPRESSIONISM

Impressionism Key Knowledge

1. Impressionism is a 19th-century art movement characterised by relatively small, thin, yet visible brush strokes, open composition, emphasis on accurate depiction of light in its changing qualities (often accentuating the effects of the passage of time), ordinary subject matter, inclusion of movement as a crucial element of human perception and experience, and unusual visual angles.

2. Impressionism originated with a group of Paris-based artists whose independent exhibitions brought them to prominence during the 1870s and 1880s.

3. impressionist artists were not trying to paint a reflection of real life, but an ‘impression’ of what the person, light, atmosphere, object or landscape looked like to them.

4. The Impressionists tried to capture the movement and life of what they saw and show it to us as if it were happening before our eyes.

5. Before impressionism, landscapes in art were often imaginary, perfect landscapes painted in the studio. The impressionists changed all that and most painted plein air.

6. When working Plein air, the impressionists looked at and captured how light and colour changed the scenes.

7. Impressionists often painted thickly and used quick (and quite messy) brush strokes. In most of the paintings before impressionism you can't really see the brushstrokes at all.

Art Nouveau Key Knowledge

1. Art Nouveau is an international style of art, architecture, and applied art, especially the decorative arts, known in different languages by different names: Jugendstil in German, Stile Liberty in Italian, etc. In English it is also known as the Modern Style.

2. The style was most popular between 1890 and 1910.

3. Art Nouveau dominated much of the Western art and design worlds from the 1880s up to the start of World War I.

4. The style was inspired by nature, spurred on by the Arts and Crafts movement, and served as a fundamental reaction against Industrialisation.

5. Japanese woodblock prints heavily influenced the Art Nouveau approach to natural form.

6. Art Nouveau designers constantly strove to create a gesamtkunstwerk, or total work of art.

7. Other characteristics of Art Nouveau were a sense of dynamism and movement, often given by asymmetry or whiplash lines, and the use of modern materials, particularly iron, glass, ceramics and later concrete, to create unusual forms and larger open spaces.

Claude Monet

Artist Profile – Claude Monet

Born: 14 November 1840

Died: 5 December 1926 (aged 86)

Monet was a French painter and founder of impressionist painting who is seen as a key precursor to modernism, especially in his attempts to paint nature as he perceived it.

Claude Monet – Impression, Soleil Levant, 1872

Plein Air Drawings

“En plein air,” or plein air painting, is a French term that simply means painting outdoors.

The Impressionists would have used a flat headed brush like this to create the messy brushstrokes

Gustav Klimt – The Kiss, 1907-08

Gustav Klimt

Artist Profile – Gustav Klimt

Born: 14 July 1862

Died: 6 February, 1918 (aged 55)

Klimt was an Austrian symbolist painter and one of the most prominent members of the Art Nouveau and Vienna Secession movements. Klimt is noted for his paintings, murals, sketches, and other Objects d'art.

Key vocabulary	
Landscape Art	Landscape painting, the depiction of natural scenery in art. Landscape paintings may capture mountains, valleys, bodies of water, fields, forests, and coasts and may or may not include man-made structures as well as people
Barbizon Painters	The Barbizon school of painters were part of an art movement towards Realism in art, which arose in the context of the dominant Romantic Movement of the time. Most of their works were landscape painting, but several of them also painted landscapes with farmworkers, and genre scenes of village life. Some of the most prominent features of this school are its tonal qualities, colour, loose brushwork, and softness of form.
Representation	The description or portrayal of someone or something in a particular way.
Tache	Tache is a technique of applying unblended touches of colour.
Industrialisation	The development of industries in a country or region on a wide scale.
Gesamtkunstwerk	A Gesamtkunstwerk is a work of art that makes use of all or many art forms or strives to do so. The term is a German loanword accepted in English as a term in aesthetics. Pronounced GAZ-UMT-KUNST-VARK
Vienna Secession	The Vienna Secession was the name given to the group of artists, architects and designers that broke away from the main establishment of Viennese artists to form their own group. Formed in 1897, its radical period was brief yet its impact on the cultural life of Vienna and beyond was immense and enduring.
Commission	In art, a commission is the act of requesting the creation of a piece, often on behalf of another. Artwork may be commissioned by private individuals, by the government, or businesses.
Exhibition	An art exhibition is traditionally the space in which art objects (in the most general sense) meet an audience. The exhibit is universally understood to be for some temporary period unless, as is rarely true, it is stated to be a "permanent exhibition".
Pattern	A repeated decorative design.
Symbolism	Symbols are usually objects, which are easy to understand, but they represent something more complex. Writers and artists use symbols to explore complicated topics and themes.
Mythology	A collection of myths, especially one belonging to a particular religious or cultural tradition.
Tree of Life	The tree of life is a fundamental archetype in many of the world's mythologies, religious, and philosophical traditions. It is closely related to the concept of the sacred tree.