**IMPRESSIONISM**

(SOURCE: The Encyclopedia Britannica. Edited by the teacher)

The art movement known as Impressionism developed mainly in France during the late 19th century. Impressionist painters tried to accurately record the shifting effects of light on color and texture at specific times of day and under different weather conditions. Advocating for radical new ways of painting, they ushered in a break with traditional Western artistic traditions that led to the founding of modern art.

Impressionism can also refer to a style of classical music initiated by the French composer Claude Debussy in the late 19th century. Impressionist composers attempted to convey an idea or feeling through a wash of sound rather than a strict formal structure.

Impressionist painting comprises the work produced between about 1867 and 1886 by a group of artists who shared a set of related approaches and techniques. The principal impressionist painters were Claude Monet, and Pierre Auguste Renoir among several others.  In the 1860s the work of the established painter Edouard Manet greatly influenced Claude Monet and others of the group. Manet himself adopted the impressionist approach in about 1873. Edgar Degas and Paul Cezanne also painted in an impressionist style for a time in the early 1870s.

Impressionist artists rejected many of the teachings of academic art that had been accepted for hundreds of years. They were dissatisfied, for example, with the traditional emphasis on depicting historical or mythological subjects. Instead, the impressionists focused on the manipulation of color, tone, and texture as ends in themselves. As Monet said: “*The principal subject in a painting is light*.”

In the late 1860s Monet, Renoir and others began painting landscapes and river scenes in which they tried to record the colors and forms of objects as they appeared in natural light at a given time. They tried, for example, to capture the play of light upon water and the reflected colors of its ripples. The impressionists abandoned the traditional landscape palette of muted greens, browns, and grays, favoring lighter, sunnier colors. They rejected the use of grays and blacks in shadows as inaccurate. Rather than hiding their brushstrokes, they built up forms from noticeable dabs and flecks of color. The forms lost their clear outlines, seeming to shimmer and vibrate in a re-creation of actual outdoor conditions. The impressionists often painted entirely outdoors while looking at the actual scene, instead of finishing up a painting from sketches in the studio, as was the conventional practice. Their subject matter included landscapes, trees, houses, and even urban street scenes and railroad stations.

Many art critics were initially hostile to this daring new style of painting. One critic ridiculed the artists by calling them “impressionists,” after Monet’s 1872 painting *Impression: Sunrise*. The artists themselves, however, soon adopted the name as a good description of their intention to accurately convey visual “impressions.” The French Academy also rejected most of the impressionists’ paintings, refusing to show them in its official art exhibition, called the Salon. Their work was extremely difficult to sell. The impressionists held their own exhibition in 1874. They later held seven others shows, the last in 1886.

By the mid-1880s the impressionist group had begun to dissolve as each painter increasingly pursued individual interests and principles. In its short existence, however, it had revolutionized Western painting.

Source: <https://kids.britannica.com/students/article/impressionism/394577>

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WITH COMPLETE SENTENCES.

1. What were some typical subjects found in traditional paintings?
2. Is Impressionism an artistic movement only found in painting?
3. What prompted and initiated the Impressionism movement?
4. How did the Impressionist painters get their work seen by the public?
5. Name one Impressionist who was not a painter.
6. What visual aspect was most important to the Impressionists?