

# Water Lilies

*Monet's water lilies are some of the world's most famous paintings. Create your own version with this beautiful artwork.*

## Lesson Focus:

- Other living things: Flowers
- Artist appreciation: Monet
- Other cultures: Asia
- Painting and drawing reflections in water

## Description:

In this artwork we learn how to draw water lilies and lily pads sitting on a pond. We learn about how to draw the shape of the petals and how to draw the lily pads from the correct viewing angle. This lesson is great if you would like to create a Monet or Asian themed artwork. They were one of Monet's favourites and are regularly seen in Asian style gardens.

## You will need:

- White paper.
- Lead pencil, black pencil (as we have used,) crayon or permanent marker. (Only one is needed to draw with.)
- Oil pastels
- Tempera disc paints
- Bristle paint brushes
- Water container
- Newspaper or table covers
- Paint shirts or aprons



### Easy Peasy Tips:

- Don't worry if your sketching is a little messy. That is the style of this artwork. If you make a mistake when drawing the lily, just draw over the top.

### For The Teacher:

- Show the class images of water lilies and discuss the shapes and colours they can see.
- Also discuss the colours they can see in the water and the misconception that water is always blue.
- Show the class images of Claude Monet's water lily series of paintings and his house and garden at Giverny in France. Discuss with the class why Claude Monet was so fascinated with painting his pond and lilies. (Google is your friend!)

### Creating Your Artwork:

Place your paper landscape style.

1. **Drawing:** Place a dot as a starting point. This point is about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the way across and in the middle top to bottom.
2. Starting at the point draw your first petal as shown. Use the tips shown to get the correct shape. Remember that this is the largest of the water lilies so make this petal nice and big!
3. Now begin drawing your second petal. Begin at the bottom, aim for the middle of the first petal and then curve it outwards. Try and make this petal the same length as your first one.
4. Draw the other side of the petal finishing on the same spot at the bottom.
5. Now draw another petal the same way on the opposite side.
6. Repeat again to add your 4th and 5th petals. Then repeat but this time make the 6th and 7th petals slightly smaller.
7. Repeat these steps to create a slightly smaller water lily on the right side of the page. Begin a little higher than you did with the first water lily.
8. Repeat again to create the third water lily. Place this flower in the middle of the other two to create a pleasing arrangement. Make this lily much smaller to create depth in your art work. This is called perspective. You could also add more smaller water lilies if you like but try and have an odd number. Odd numbers always look best!
9. Now begin drawing the lily pads. The first thing to remember is **DON'T DRAW CIRCLES!** The lily pad would appear as a circle if you were viewing it from above but **NOT** when we are viewing it from the side as we are. Think of the lily pads as wide ovals. Draw 2 leaves coming in from the sides as shown and a smaller one in front of the small water lily. Try adding a slice out of the leaf. Think of it as a pizza that you have eaten a slice from!
10. Now fill in the gaps of the artwork by adding more oval shaped lily pads. Try adding them in groups of 3 and remember that the lily pads will get smaller as they go off into the distance.
11. Add veins to the lily pads as shown.

12. **Colouring:** Choose colours for your lilies. You will need three colours for each one. Think of colours that can be blended together such as purple/pink/white, red/orange/yellow and orange/yellow/white. Begin colouring each lily with the darkest of your three colours as shown.
13. Colour the remainder of your lilies with the oil pastels. Don't worry if you leave some spaces, we will paint over them later.
14. Colour the lily pads dark green, light green and yellow.
15. Using the same colours as each lily, shade HORIZONTALLY under each lily to create a reflection in your pond. Leave some spaces and imagine an upside down triangle when you shade.
16. To create the water effect, find different shades of blue, teal, green, purple and white. Begin by shading lines HORIZONTALLY on the pond. It is very important to shade these lines horizontally and not curved otherwise it will destroy the illusion. Make the lines different lengths and allow some to go behind the lilies and off the page.
17. Use the remaining colours to fill in the rest of the pond. Don't forget to use white to help create the illusion of a reflection on the pond. We use purple because of the purple vine that grows above Monet's pond.
18. Using black, lightly trace the leaves, veins, and lilies. Then add a small number of black lines in the water. Complete the colouring by lightly shading black under each lily pad and lily. This will create a shadow in the water.
19. **Painting:** Prepare your painting work space and materials.
20. Using horizontal strokes or dabs, paint the pond using blues and greens. Don't worry about painting over the oil pastel, the paint won't stick. Don't use too much water with your paint as it will end up dull and wishy washy.
21. Paint over your leaves with greens and over your lilies with an appropriate colour. Check for any spots you may have missed then set your painting aside to dry.
22. Your artwork is now complete.

What do you like about your artwork? What would you do differently next time?

