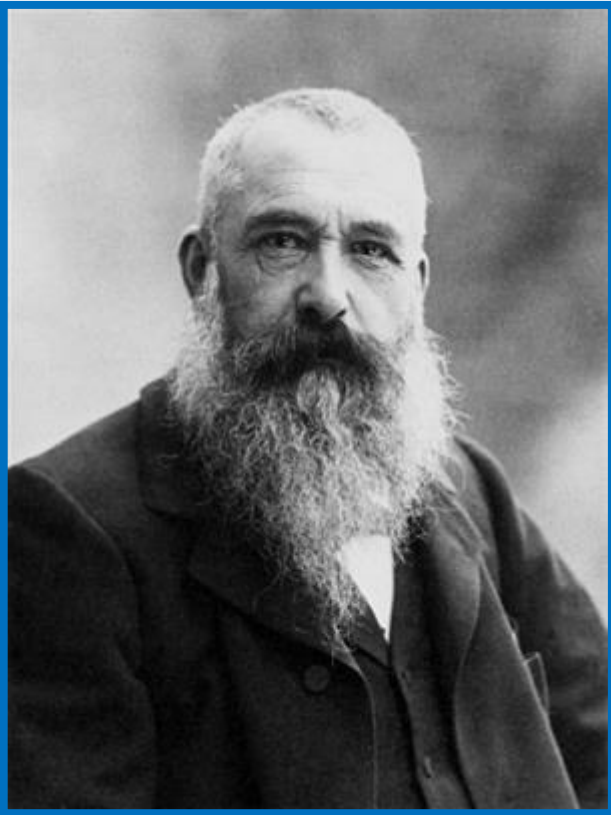


# Claude Monet

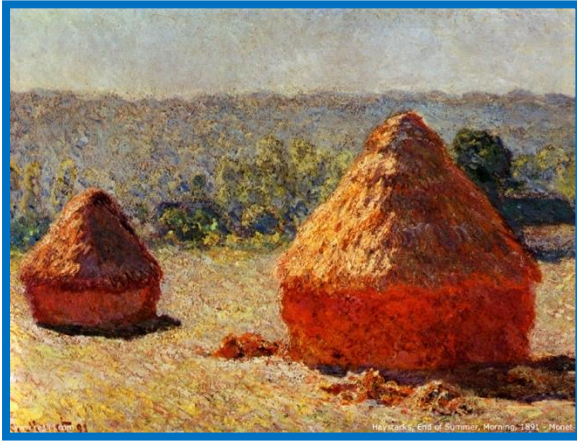


## The Water-Lily Pond

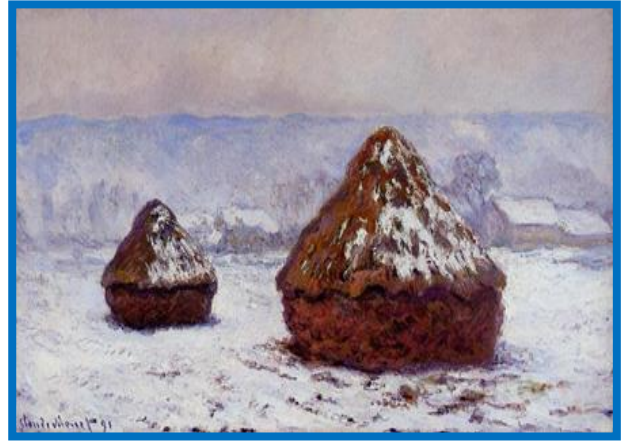
1840 - 1926

Claude Monet was born in Paris in 1840. He grew up in Le Havre, a port in Normandy, and demonstrated great artistic talent from an early age. In 1856, Monet was influenced by a meeting with Eugène Boudin, a French painter noted for his seascapes. He taught Monet how to use oil paints. Later, Monet moved back to Paris and met fellow painters, Pierre Auguste Renoir and Alfred Sisley. Together, they experimented with painting the effects of light while working outside ('en plein air'). In the 1860s, the painters exhibited their works and impressionism was born. The name 'impressionism' comes from a painting Monet exhibited called 'Impression, Sunrise'.

Impressionists did not want to paint a realistic picture but an 'impression' of what they could see. These artists used thick layers of paint and fast brushstrokes. Before this movement, artists usually painted in a studio and created perfect landscape scenes. Following a few years of travelling, Monet settled in France. While he lived here, he spent many hours painting the water lilies and the bridge in his water garden. Huge paintings of the water lilies were displayed in a purpose-built, curved room at Musée de l'Orangerie, Paris. Monet attempted the reflection of the light on the water.



'Haystacks end of summer' 1891



'Haystacks effect of snow and sun'  
1891

### Answer the following questions:

1. Why would Monet paint the same scene 'Haystacks' many times?
2. Which do you prefer? (Summer or Snow and Sun) Why?
3. What are the differences/similarities?
4. Which techniques do 'Impressionists' use to paint?
5. Which other famous Monet paintings can you name?
6. As Monet aged his works began to change. Can you give reasons why this would happen?
7. What questions might you ask Monet?

During the First World War, Monet painted a series of weeping willow trees. What might the trees represent?



Monet developed lung cancer at the age of 86, and he died on 5th December 1926. He was one of the most significant painters in the history of art, and he created many of the world's most iconic oil paintings.