

# Monet and the Impressionists

Learning Objective:

To explore some of Monet's landscape paintings.

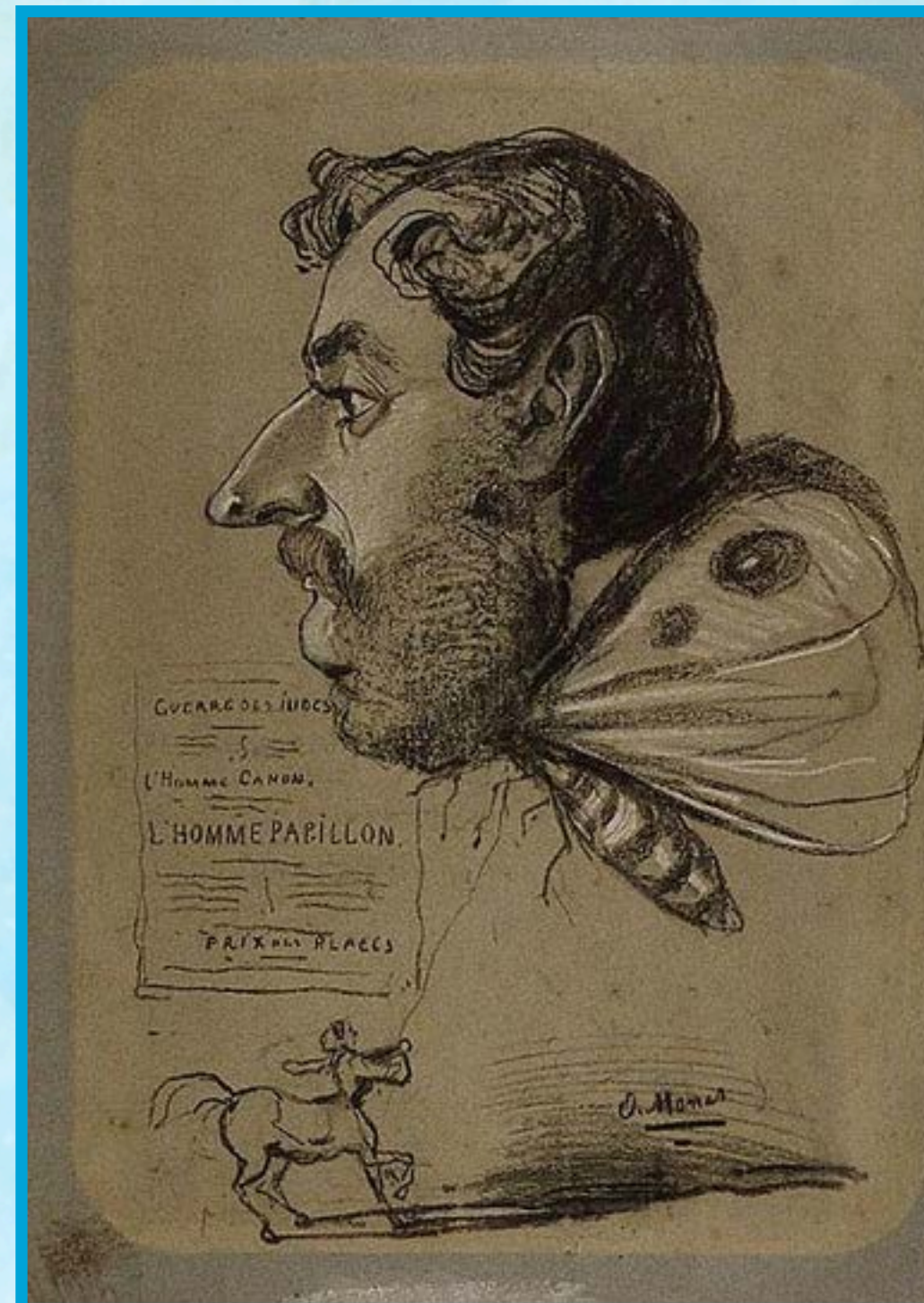
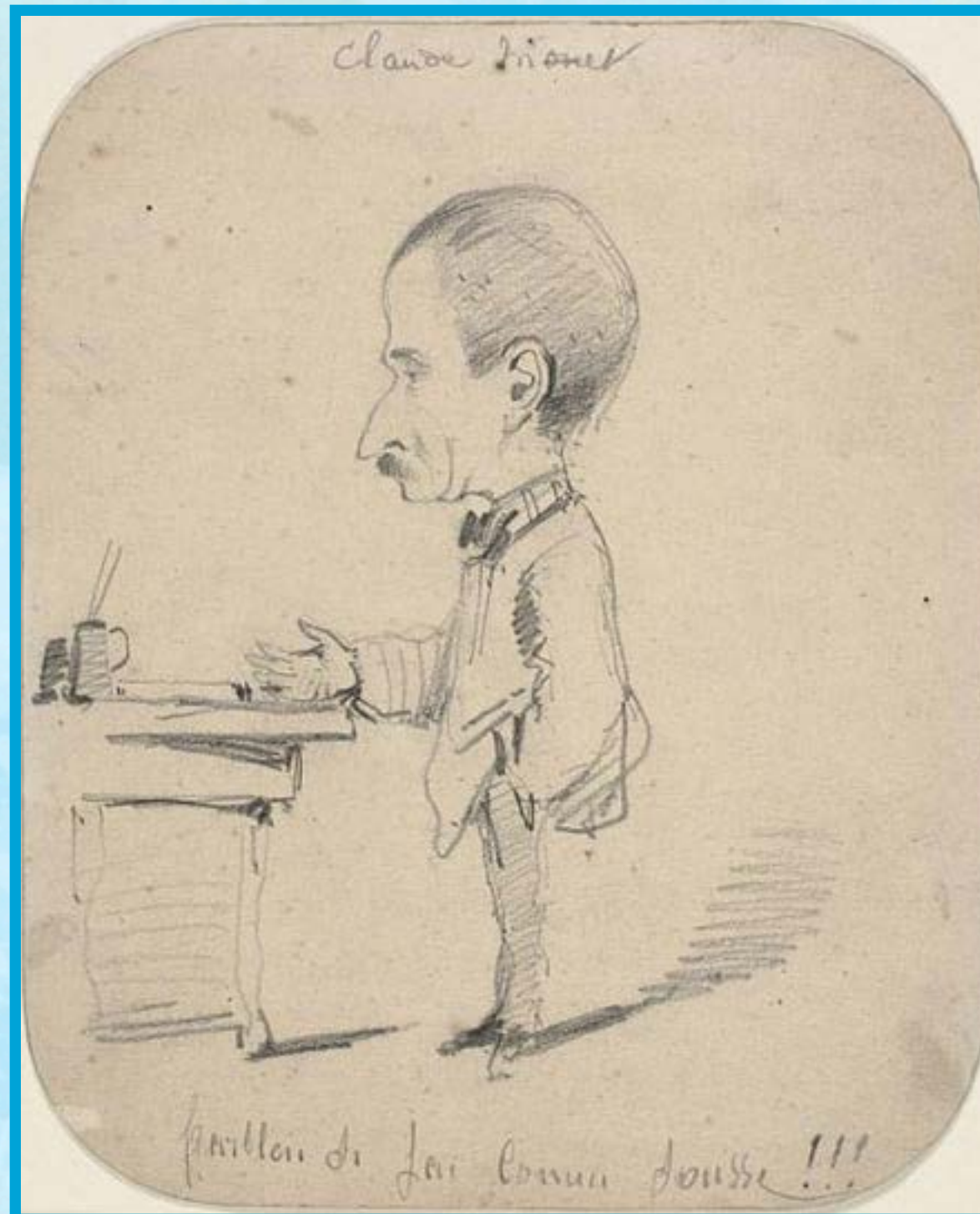
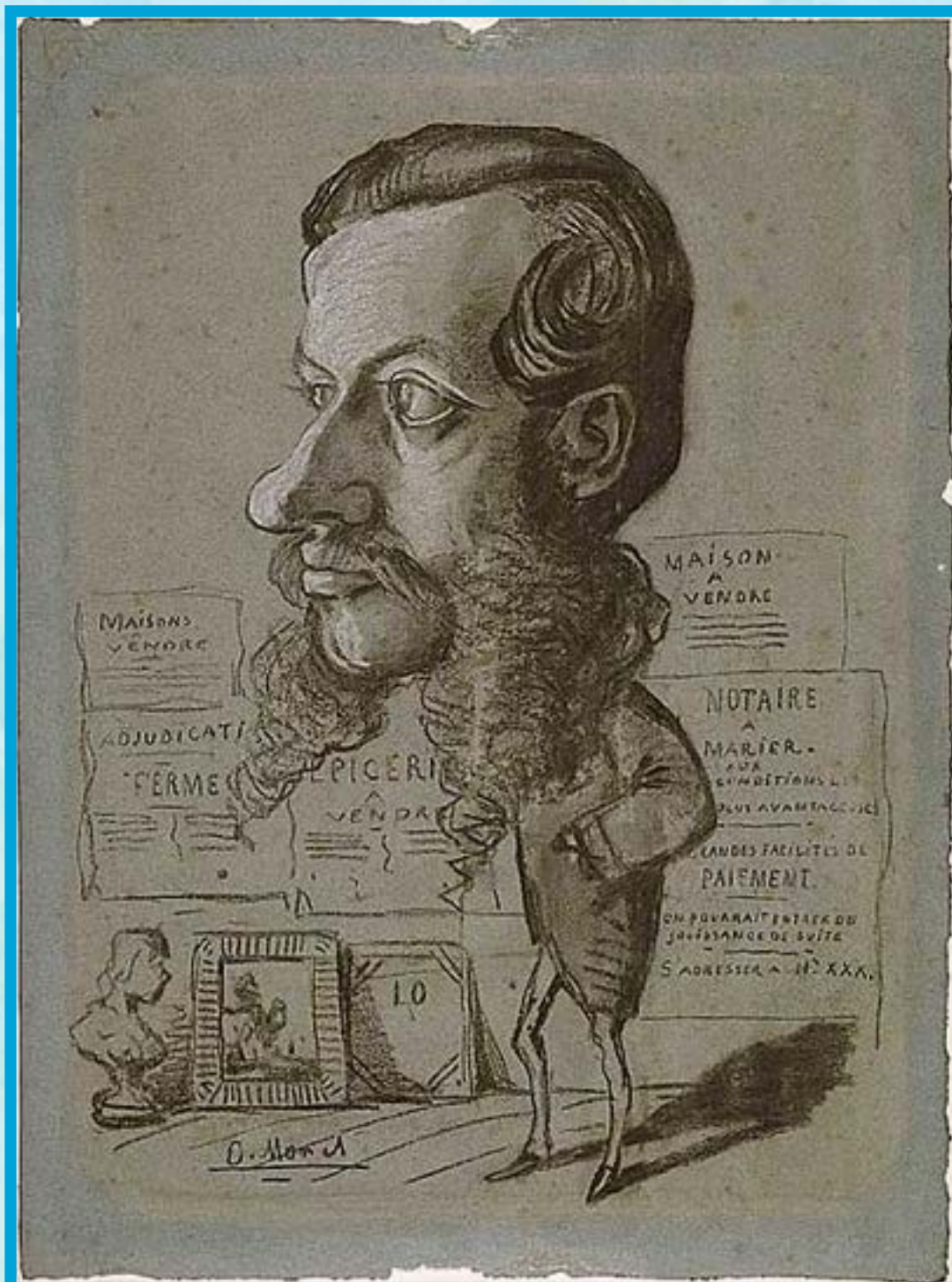




What can you  
remember about  
Monet and  
Impressionism?



Claude Monet was born in Paris in 1840 and his family moved to Le Havre when he was five. Monet didn't like school and his only interest was art. He started drawing caricatures of his teachers which were very popular. He left school when he was fifteen and earned money by drawing caricatures of tourists.



Here are  
some  
examples of  
Monet's  
caricatures!

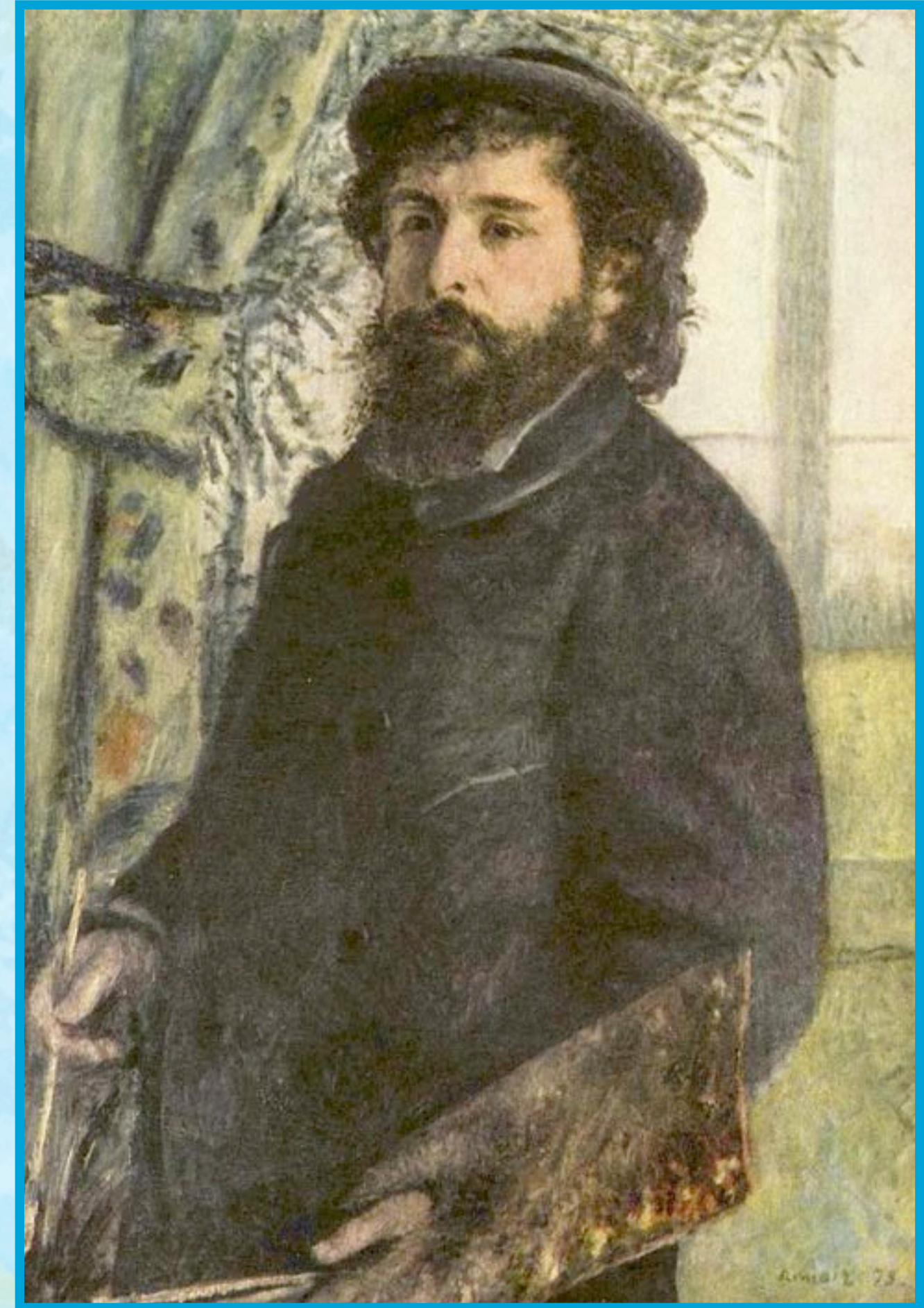




Soon after he left school, he met an artist called Eugène Boudin who saw that Monet had talent. He encouraged his art and Monet soon went to Paris to study at an 'atelier' - an art school run by a famous painter.

After a short time in the army, Monet went to another 'atelier' where he befriended other artists, including Renoir and Sisley. Monet was a strong character and became their leader. Their shared dislike of the ruling art establishment and their new ideas about painting outside and capturing moments of real life would lead them to begin the Impressionist movement.

This portrait of Monet was painted by Renoir in 1875.





Monet spent the first part of his career being very poor. His family gave him an allowance but would frequently cut him off if he did something they didn't approve of. To start with, it was difficult to sell Impressionist paintings but soon the movement became very popular. By the mid-1880s, Monet was financially secure and was a very famous name in the art world.

Monet remains the most famous Impressionist painter. His paintings are recognised all over the world. Along with Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol, his art is amongst the most expensive in the world.



This is one of Monet's most famous paintings. It has an estimated value of £53,000,000!





Today we are going to look at some of Monet's landscape paintings.  
This is what Monet said once about landscapes...



For me, a landscape does not exist in its own right, since its appearance changes at every moment; but the surrounding atmosphere brings it to life – the light and the air which vary continually. For me, it is only the surrounding atmosphere which gives subjects their true value.

What do you think he means by this?



For Monet and other Impressionists, light was the subject of many of his paintings. This means that even though the painting might show a field, trees, rivers or hills, they weren't the real focus of what he wanted to portray. Instead, it was the light he was interested in and how it changed the landscape in the scene around him.

Monet did the majority of his painting outside. He painted quickly, using quick dabs of paint so he could capture what he was seeing before the light could change.

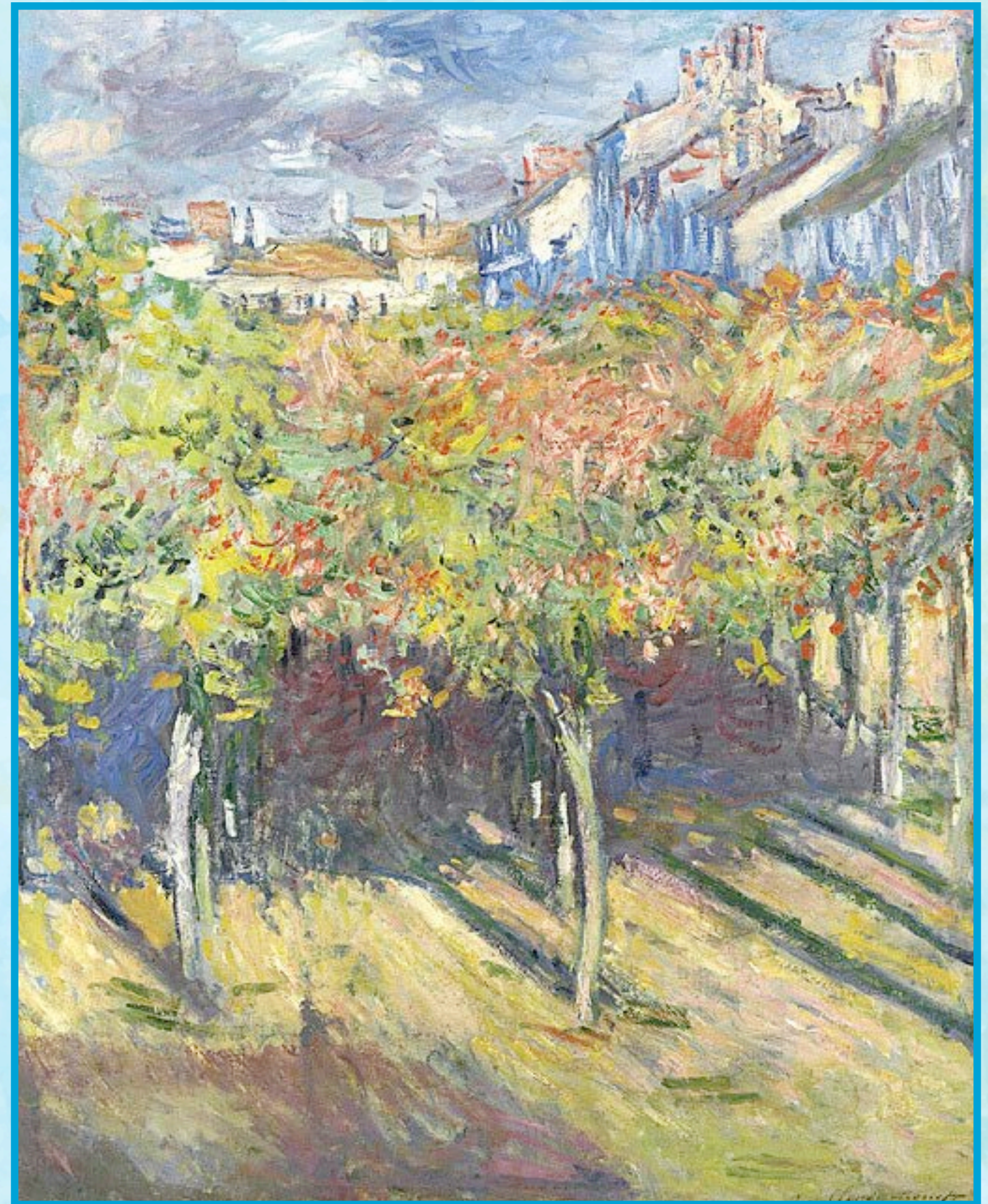


Have a look at the two paintings on the next slide. One was painted in 1866 and another in 1882. How has Monet's style developed over time?





'Jardin en Fleurs' Claude Monet, 1866



'Les Tilleuls à Poissy' Claude Monet, 1882



This is one of  
Monet's most  
famous paintings.

What do you  
think of it?

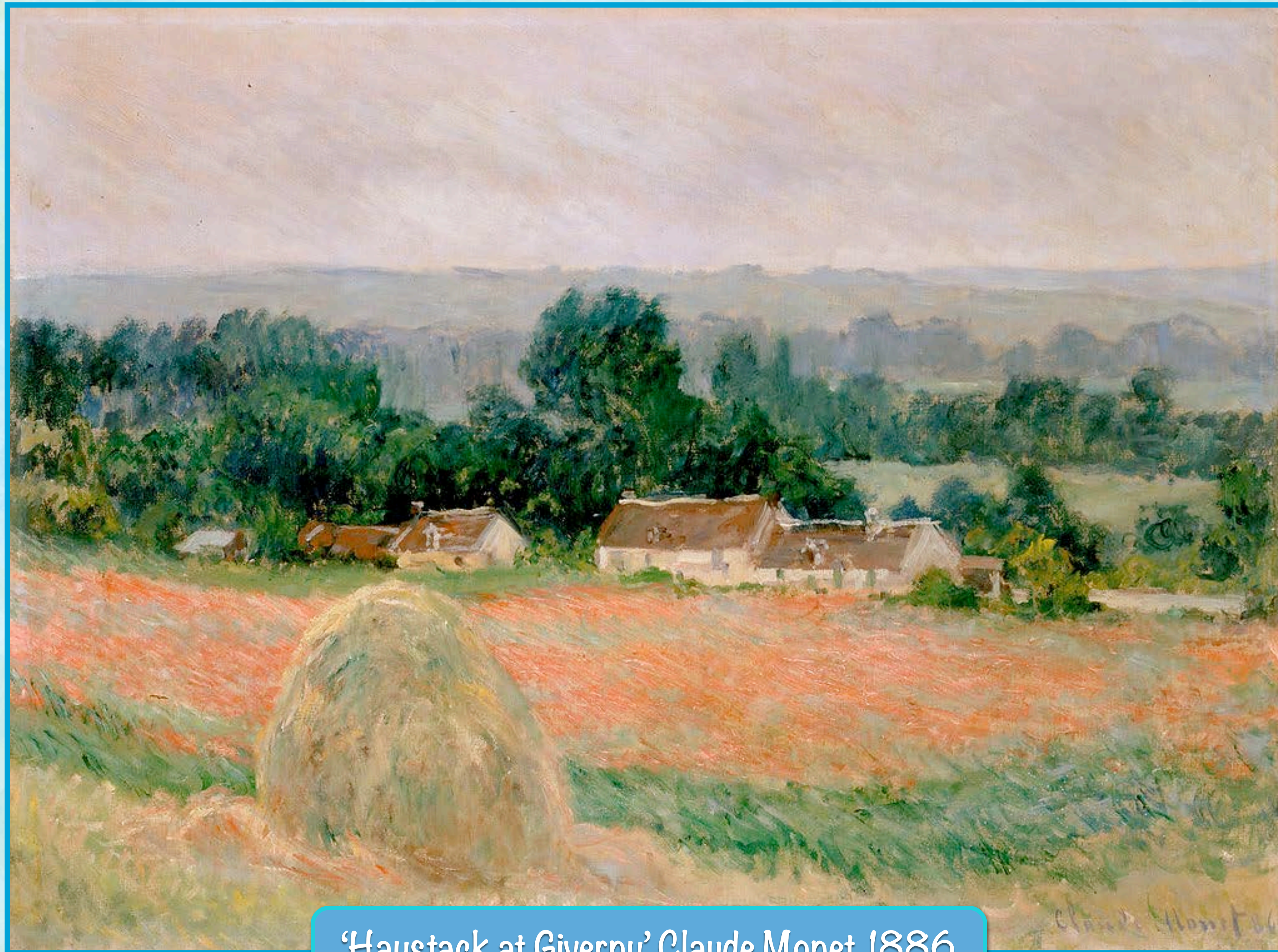
What colours  
has he used?

What can you  
see?



'Red Poppy Field' Claude Monet, 1873





'Haystack at Giverny' Claude Monet, 1886

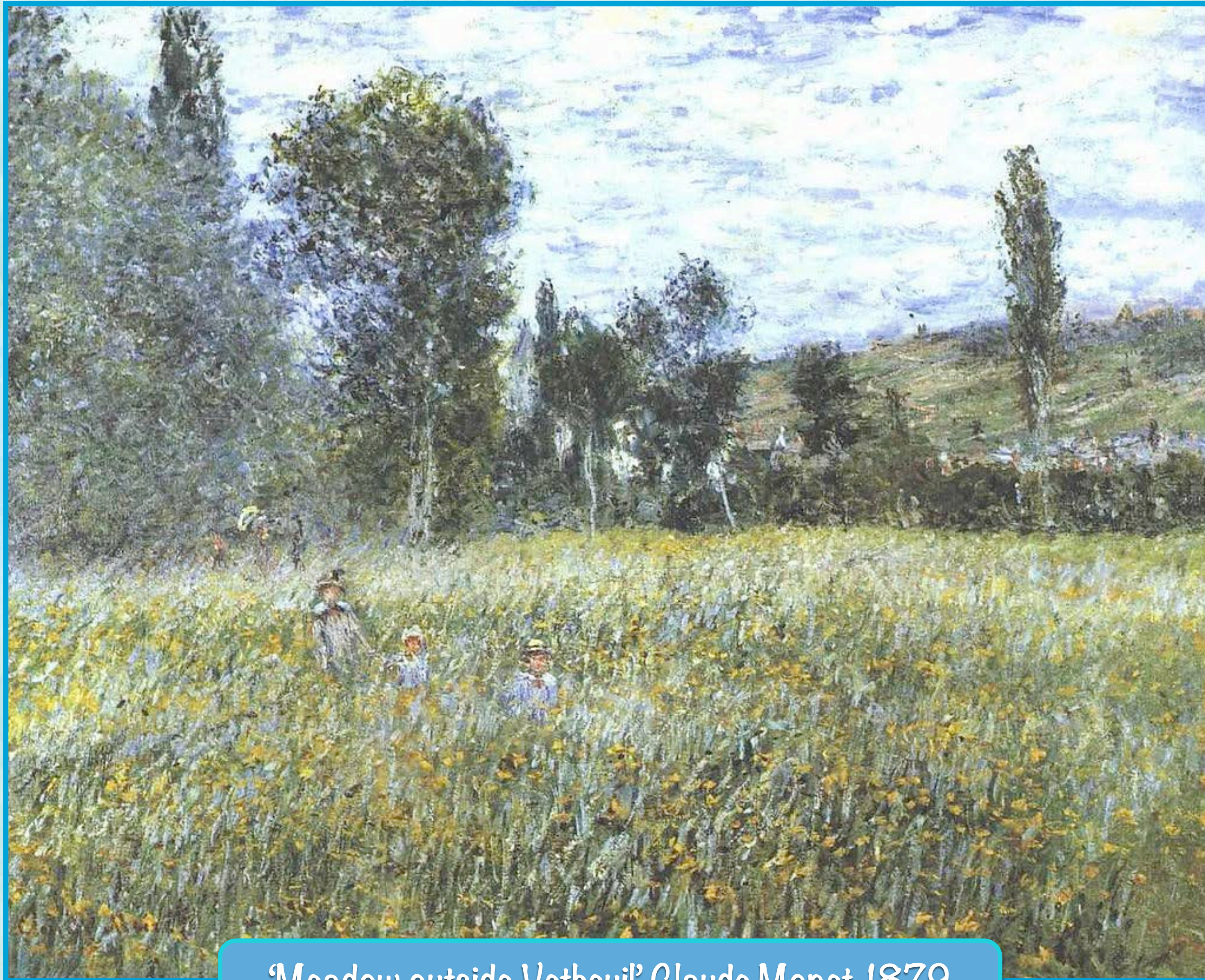
Monet did a whole series of paintings on haystacks.

What do you think of this one?

How have the colours been blended?

What can you see?





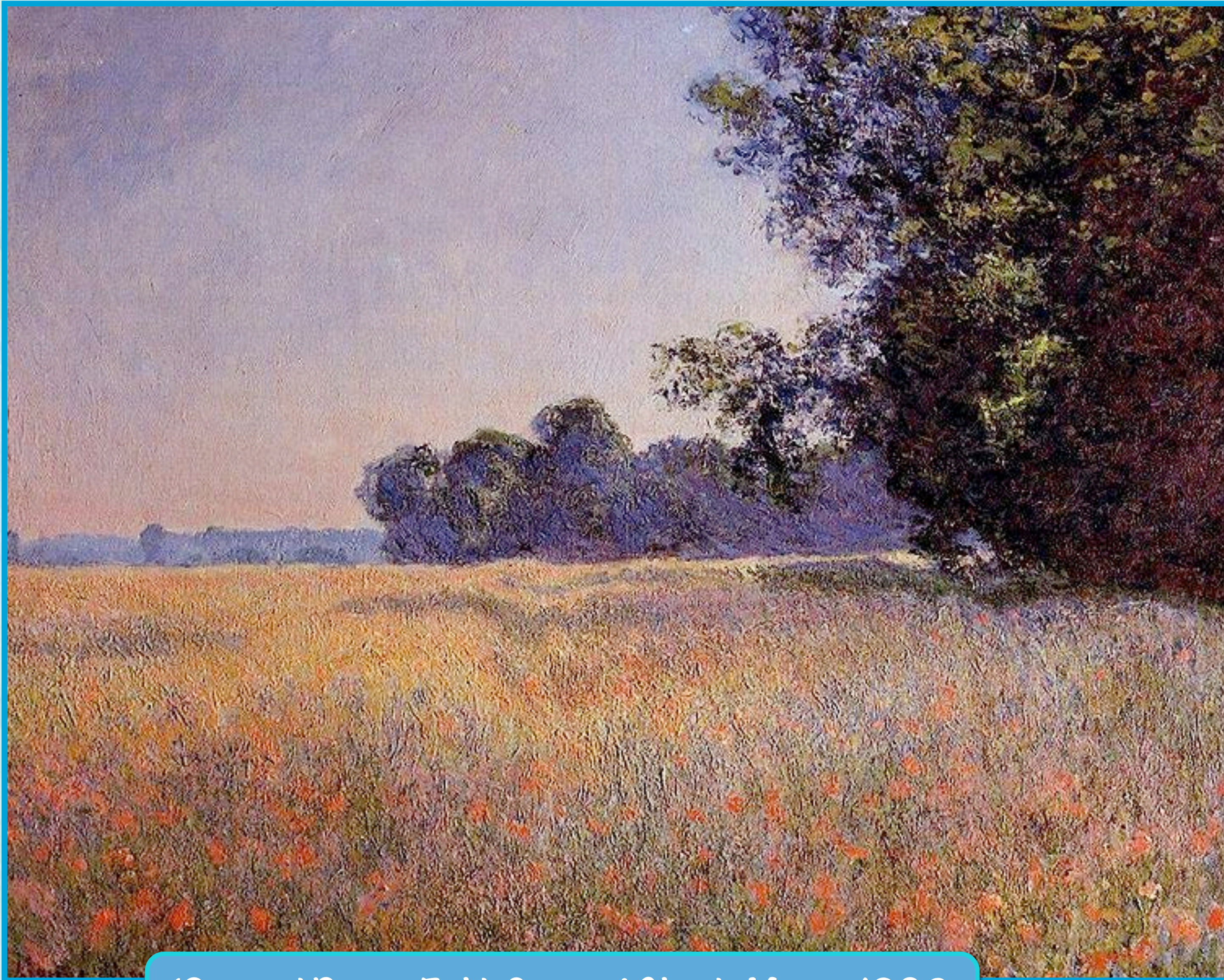
'Meadow outside Vetheuil' Claude Monet, 1879

How many different colours can you see in this painting?

How has Monet created the effect of sunlight?

What do you think of this painting?





'Oat and Poppy Field, Giverny' Claude Monet, 1890

How many  
different colours  
can you see in this  
painting?

What time of day do  
you think this is?  
Why?

What do you think  
of this painting?





Today we're going to have a go at painting a landscape in the style of Monet. Let's have a look at how we can do this...



We can use a template to help get us started. This will allow us to focus on the technique of painting like an Impressionist instead of worrying about where everything needs to go.

I have chosen a picture of a field. I have the colour copy so I can see what the colours are like and I also have a black and white copy which I will use as my template.



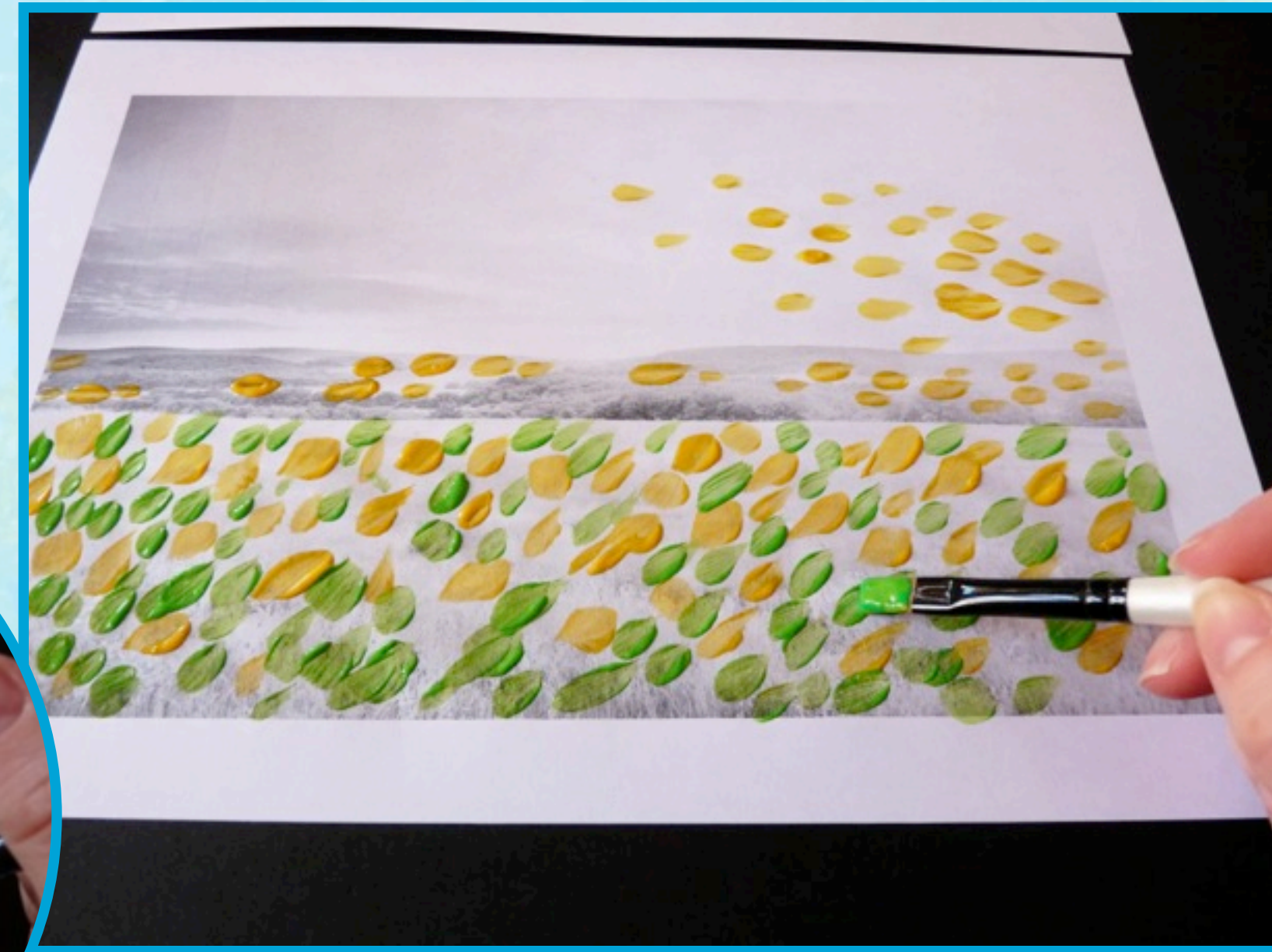
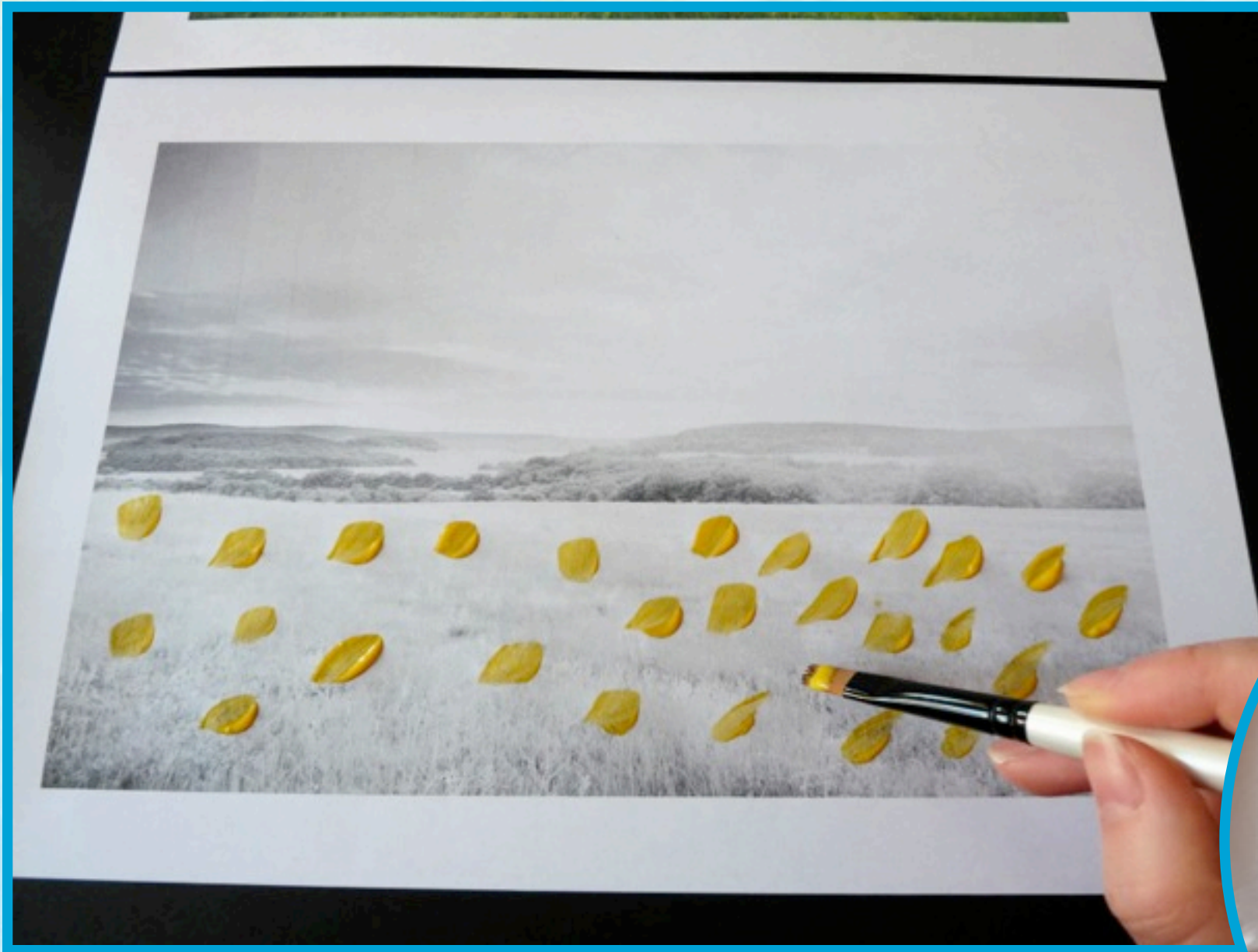


You will also need some paint, a paintbrush and some water.

I am using a paper plate as my paint palette. This will make it easier for me to mix my colours and get the right shades.



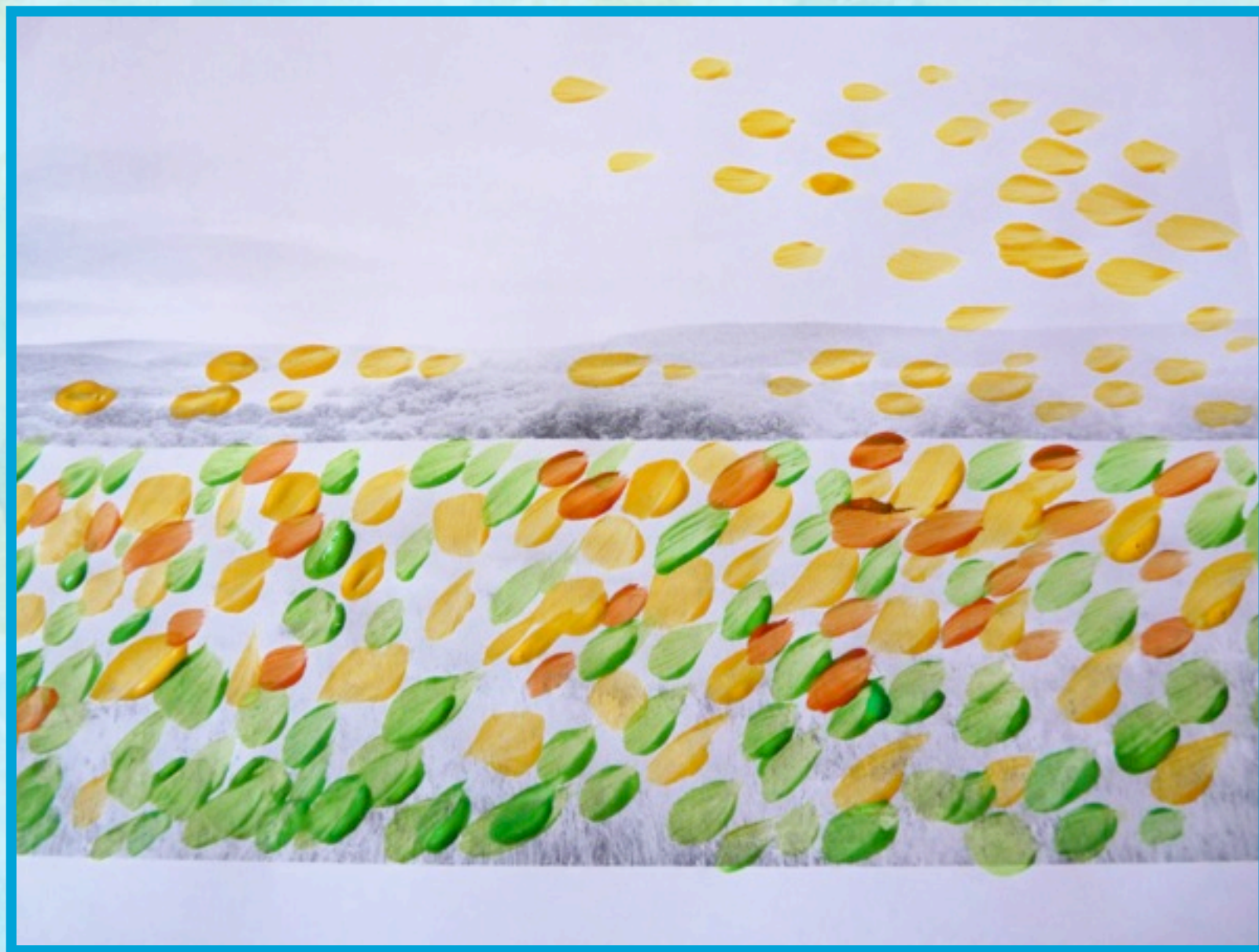




Choose a light colour to start with and dab the paint over the area you want to colour. Make sure the dabs of paint don't touch each other.

Start adding in a second colour. This is a yellowy green that was used by mixing a blob of green and a blob of yellow on the paint palette.





Add in some more colours and shades. Orange has been used here to give warmth to the scene. Start mixing different shades of yellow, orange and green to make the grass. The more shades and tints you have, the more Impressionistic your artwork will look!



You can layer over the paint you have until you have filled in all the spaces.



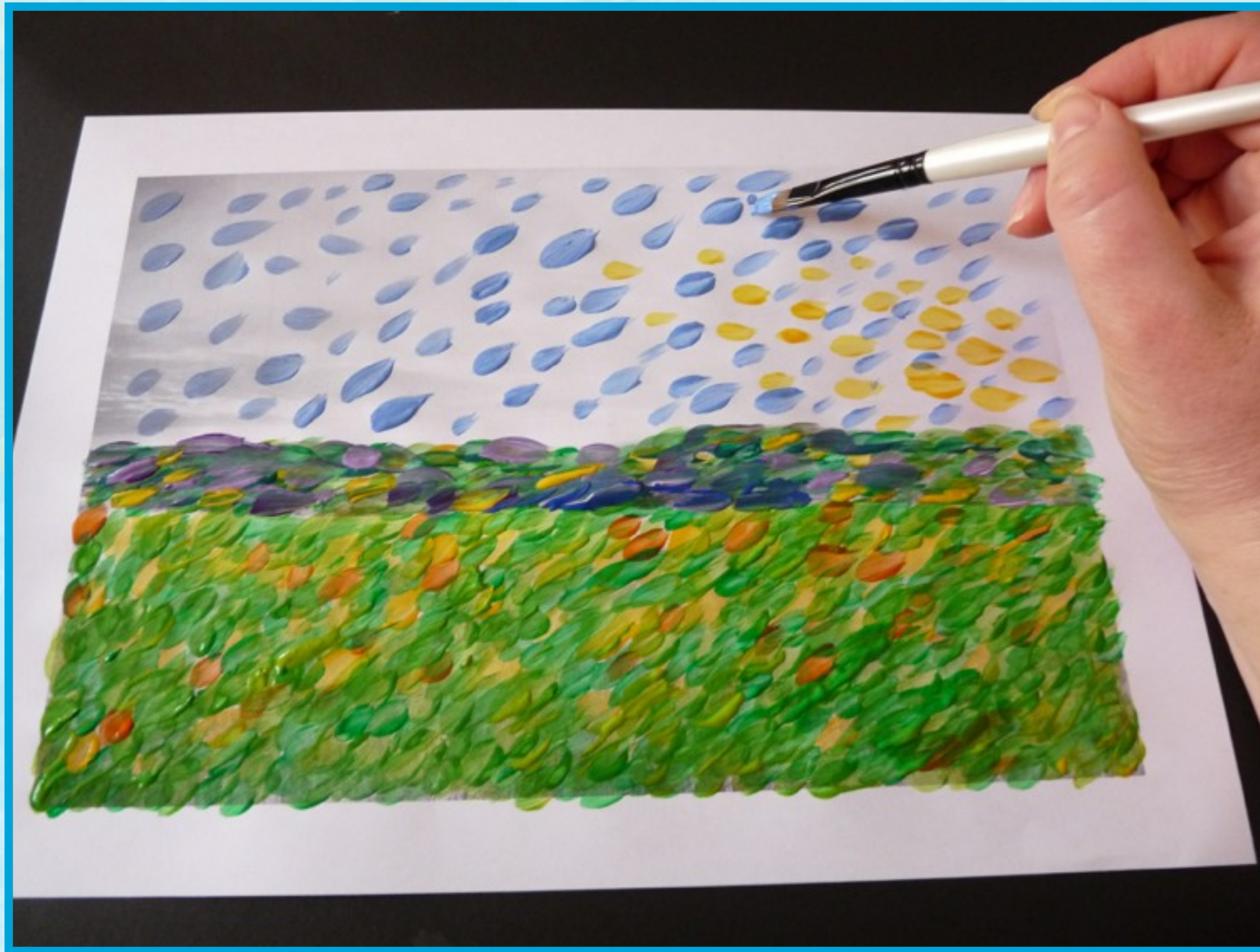




Once you have finished one section, you can move on to another. The hills in the background are darker than the grass in the foreground so new colours needed to be mixed.

A mixture of greens, blues, purples and yellows were used to make the background hills.





The same technique was used for the sky. Keep on adding different colours and shades, depending on where the sections of light and dark are in the picture.



Keep going until you are happy with your picture. There should be no bits of the background template showing through. You might want to go over bits you are not happy with until you have exactly the right shade and effect.







I made a frame for my Impressionist landscape by folding a sheet of black card in half and cutting out the middle section. What do you think of my finished masterpiece?







This is what my paint palette looked like by the time I was finished. Can you see how I mixed different shades of the same colour?

Are you ready to try some Impressionist paintings of your own?