

Monet and the Impressionists

Learning Objective:

To explore Monet's 'Haystacks' series of paintings.



Which of these do you think best describes Impressionism?

An art movement led by artists who wanted to rebel against traditional art methods and techniques.

An art movement where artists painted people in France living their everyday lives.

An art movement that focused on capturing the impression of the moment, especially in terms of the effect of light.

An art movement where artists wanted to convey religious scenes and images from historical stories.

I think this is the best description of Impressionism.
Do you agree?



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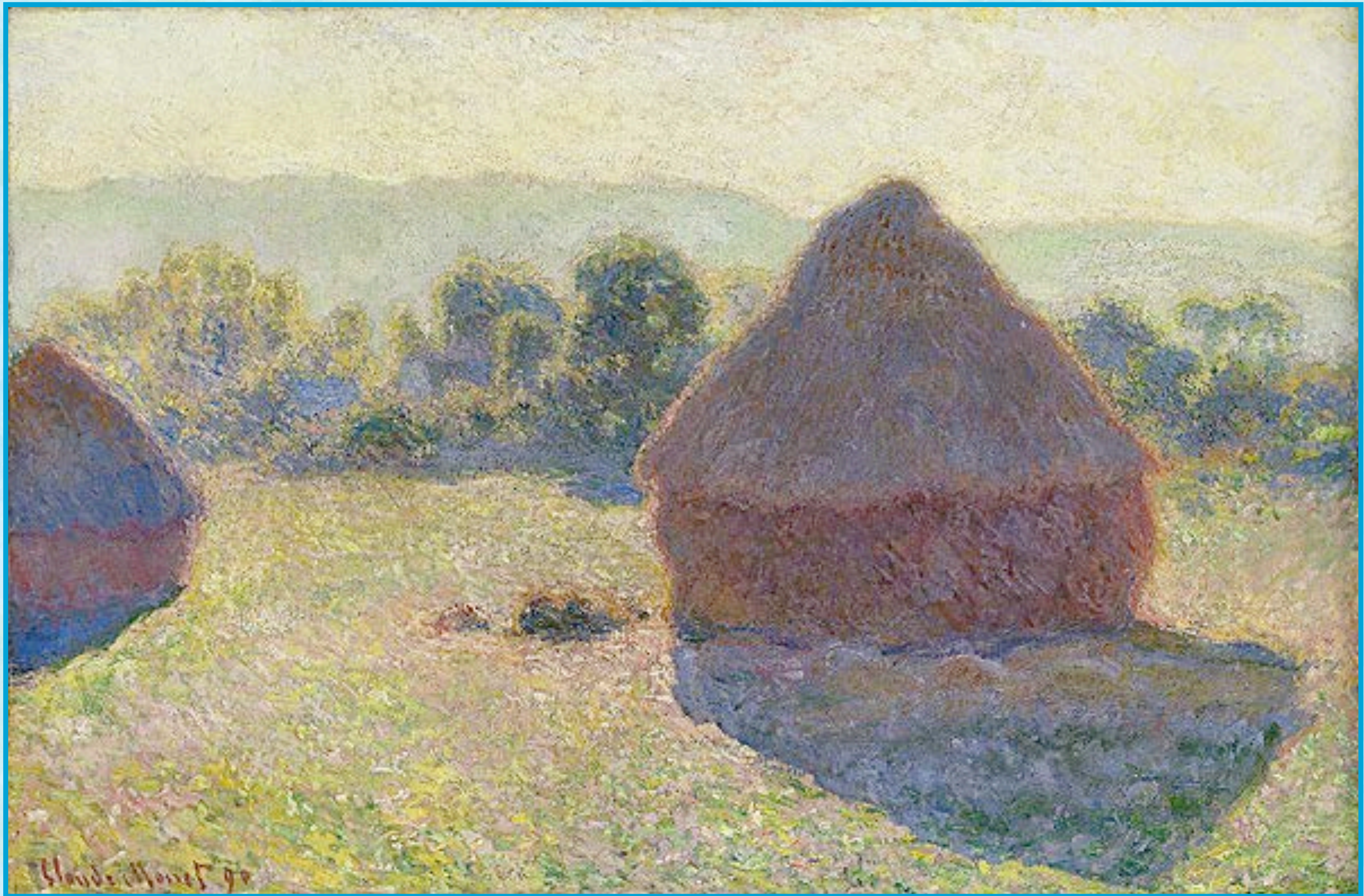
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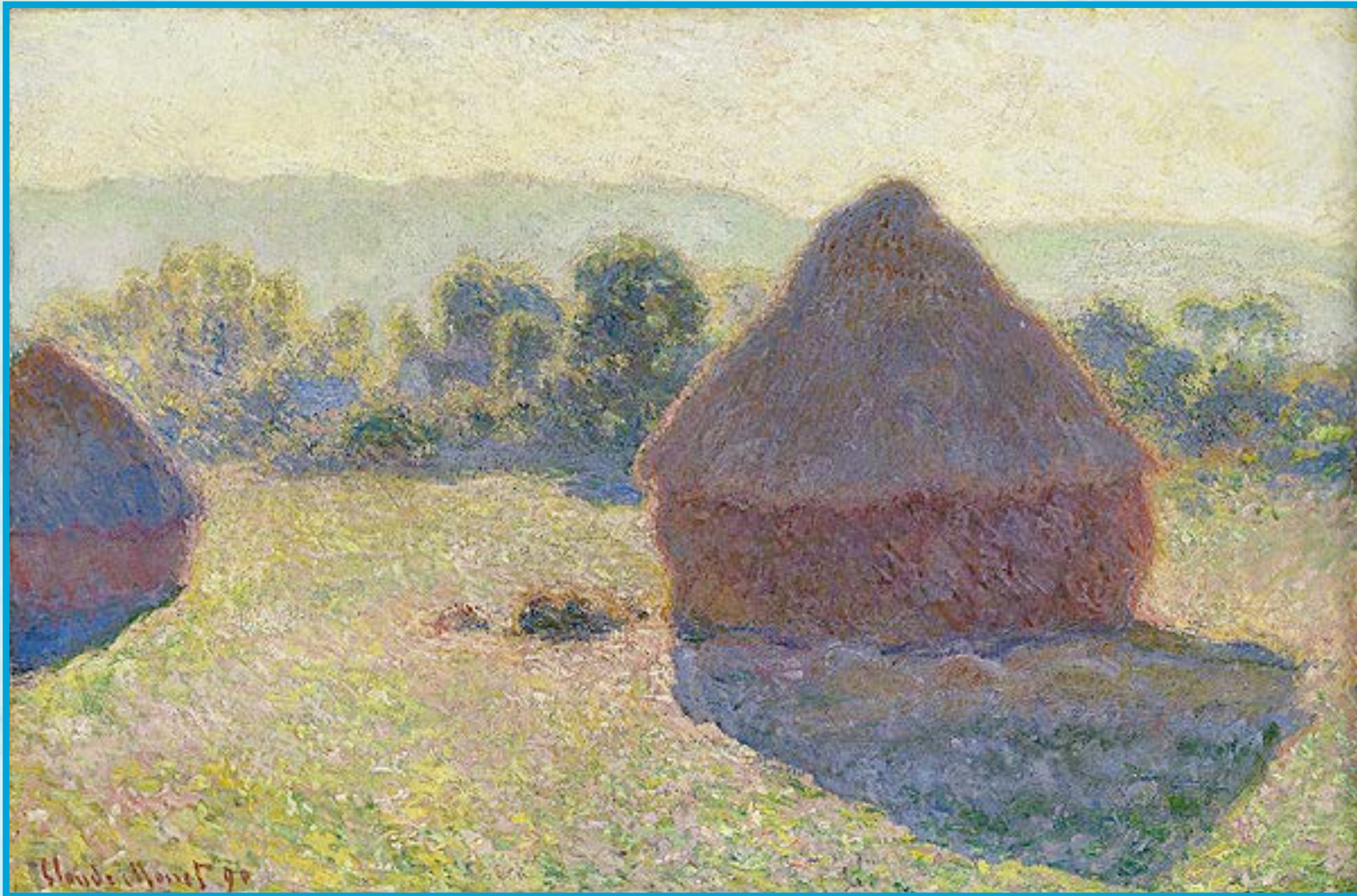
An art movement where artists wanted to convey religious scenes and images from historical stories.

Light and its effect on the surroundings was very important to Impressionist artists like Monet. Monet was so interested in light as his subject that he did a whole series of paintings of the same scene - a haystack. He painted around thirty haystacks altogether but he painted each at different times of the day and in different seasons to explore how the light changed the scene.

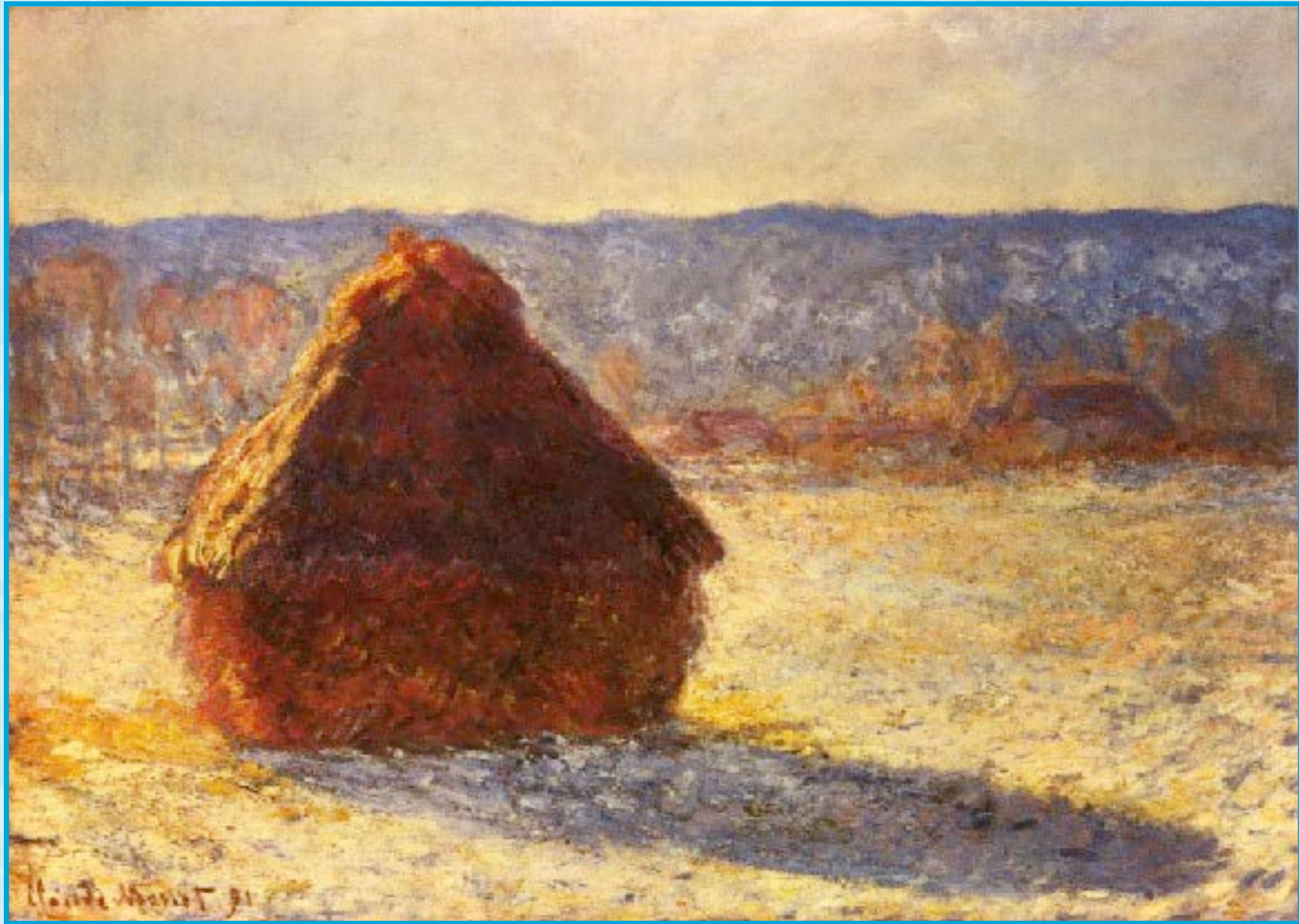


Let's have a look at some of Monet's haystack paintings. For each one, see if you can guess which season or time of day it is.





This painting is called 'Haystacks, Midday'. Can you see how Monet has made the edges of the haystack seem like they are shimmering with light and heat?





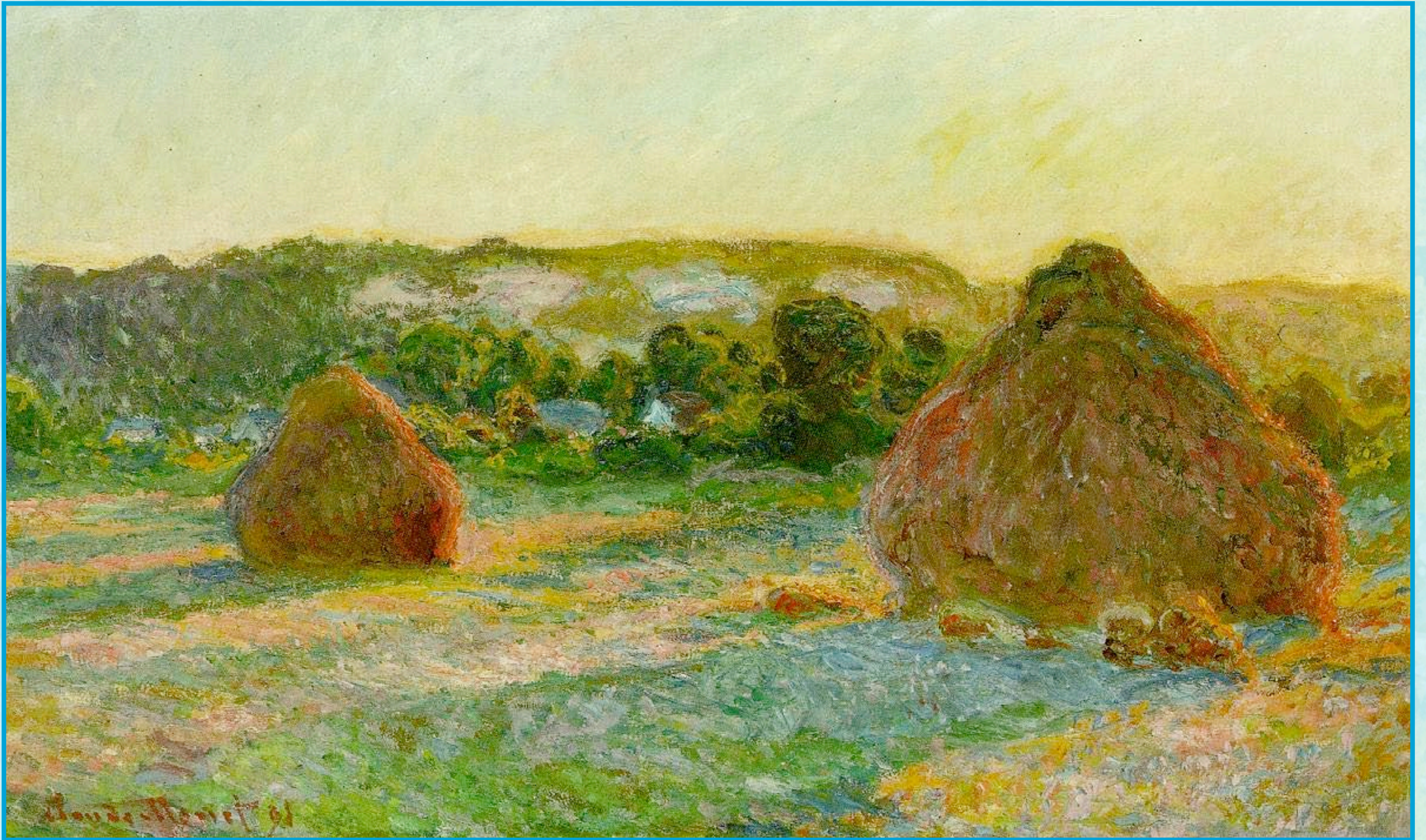
This painting is called 'Haystacks, Morning Snow Effect'.

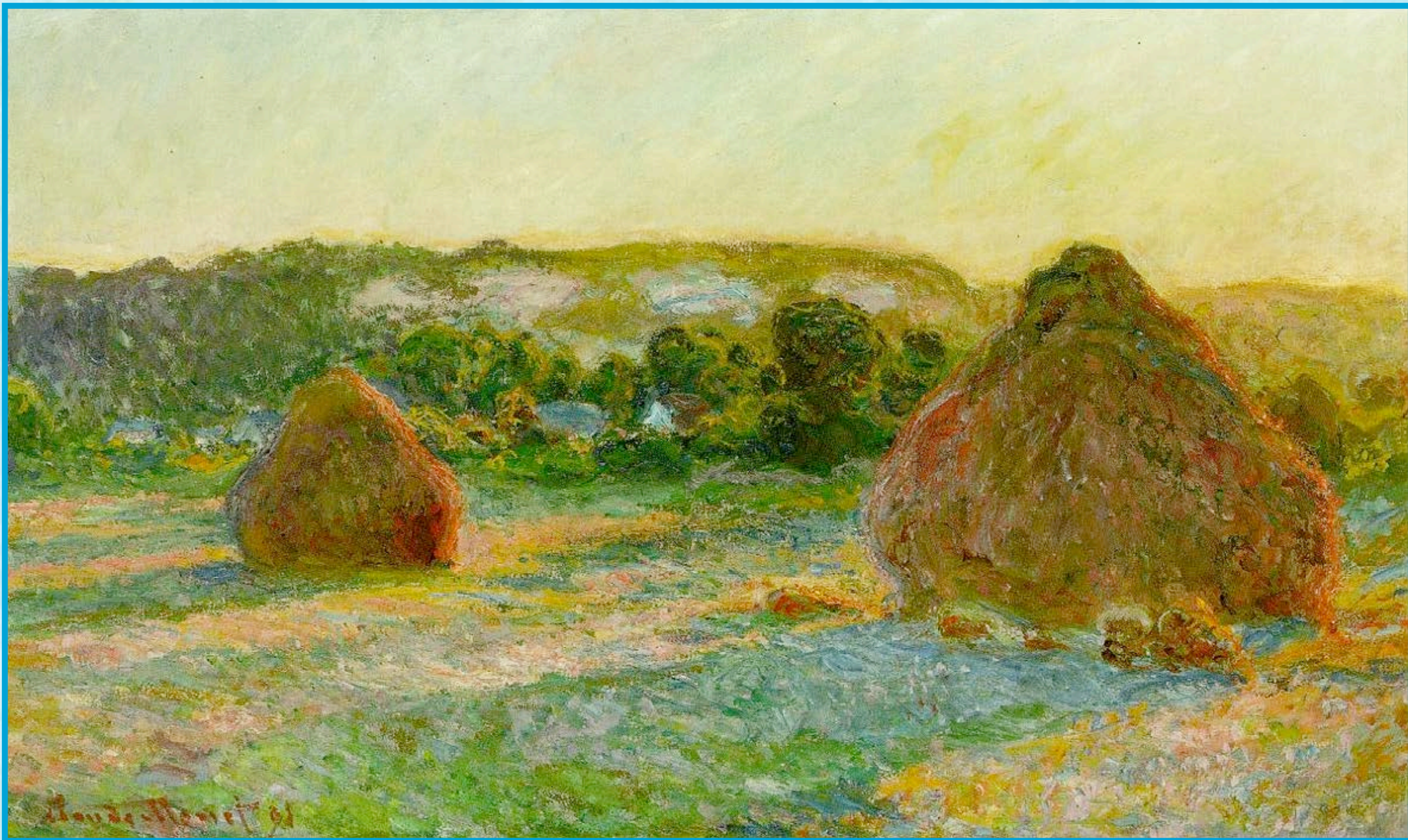






This painting is called 'Haystacks on a Foggy Morning'.





This painting is called 'Haystacks, End of Summer'.

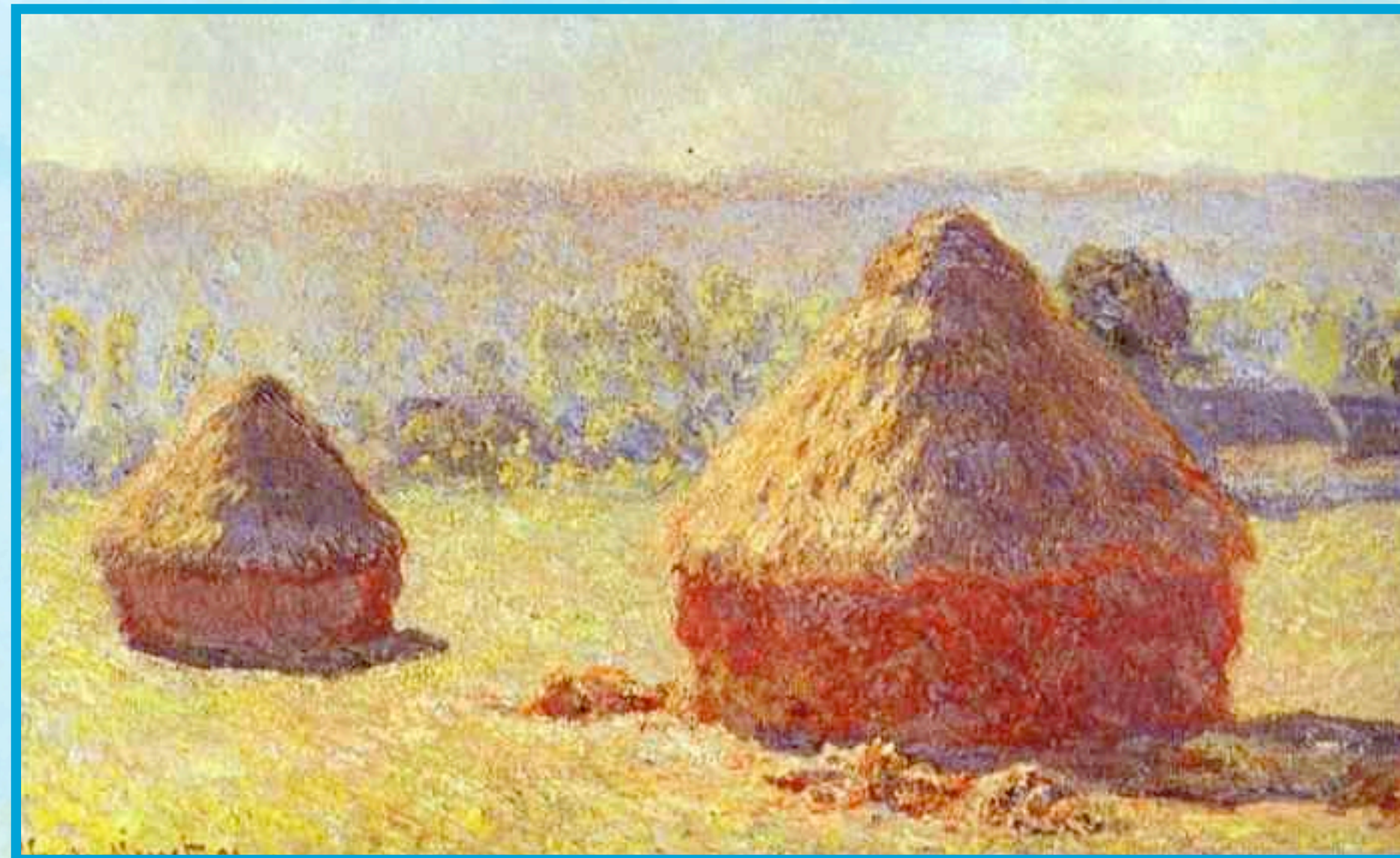
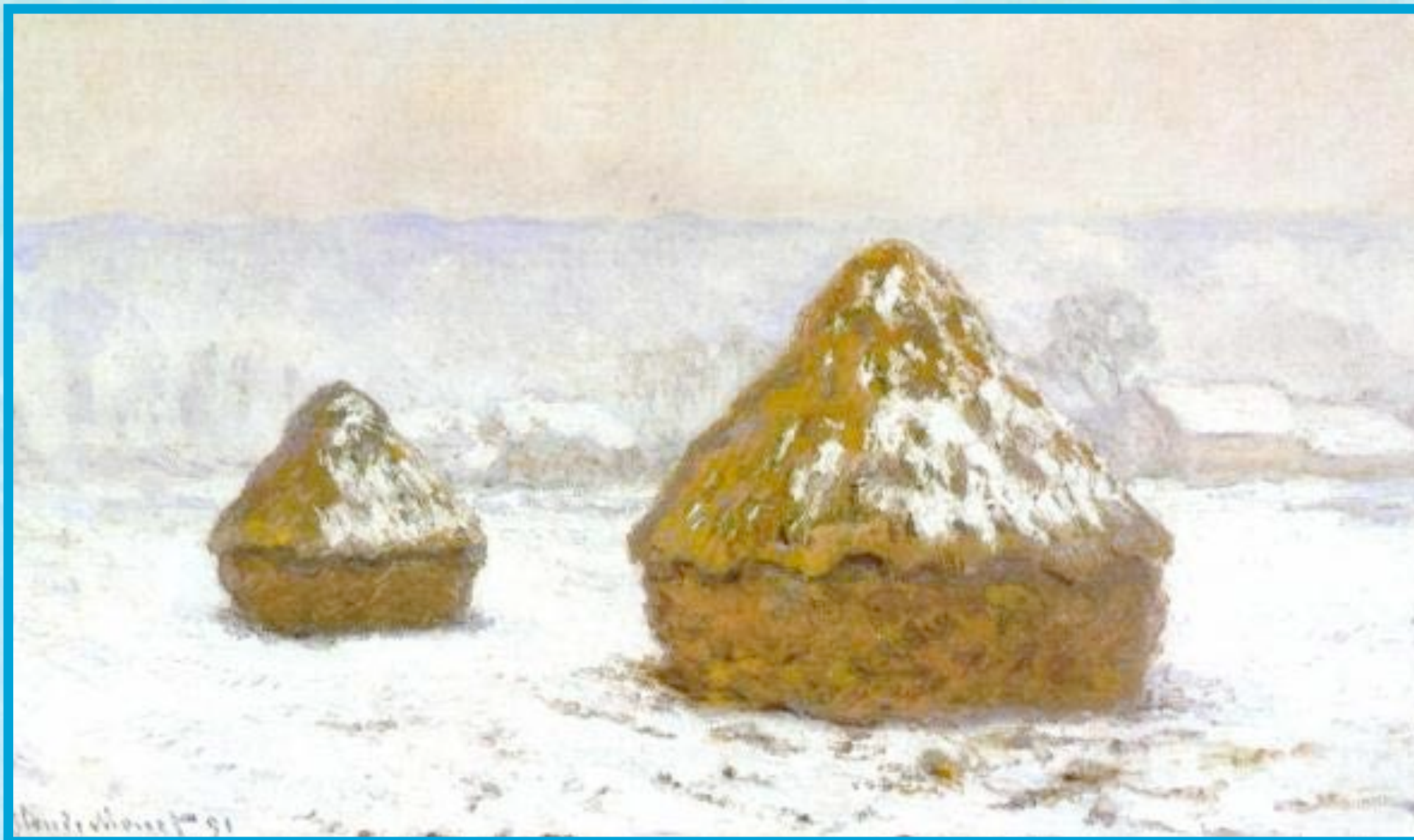






This painting is called 'Haystacks in the Snow'.

Let's compare these two paintings...



What differences can you see?

How has Monet used colour differently in these two paintings to create effects?



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One of the interesting techniques that Monet used in his 'Haystacks' series was the use of colour shadows. In the past, shadows had always been black or dark grey.

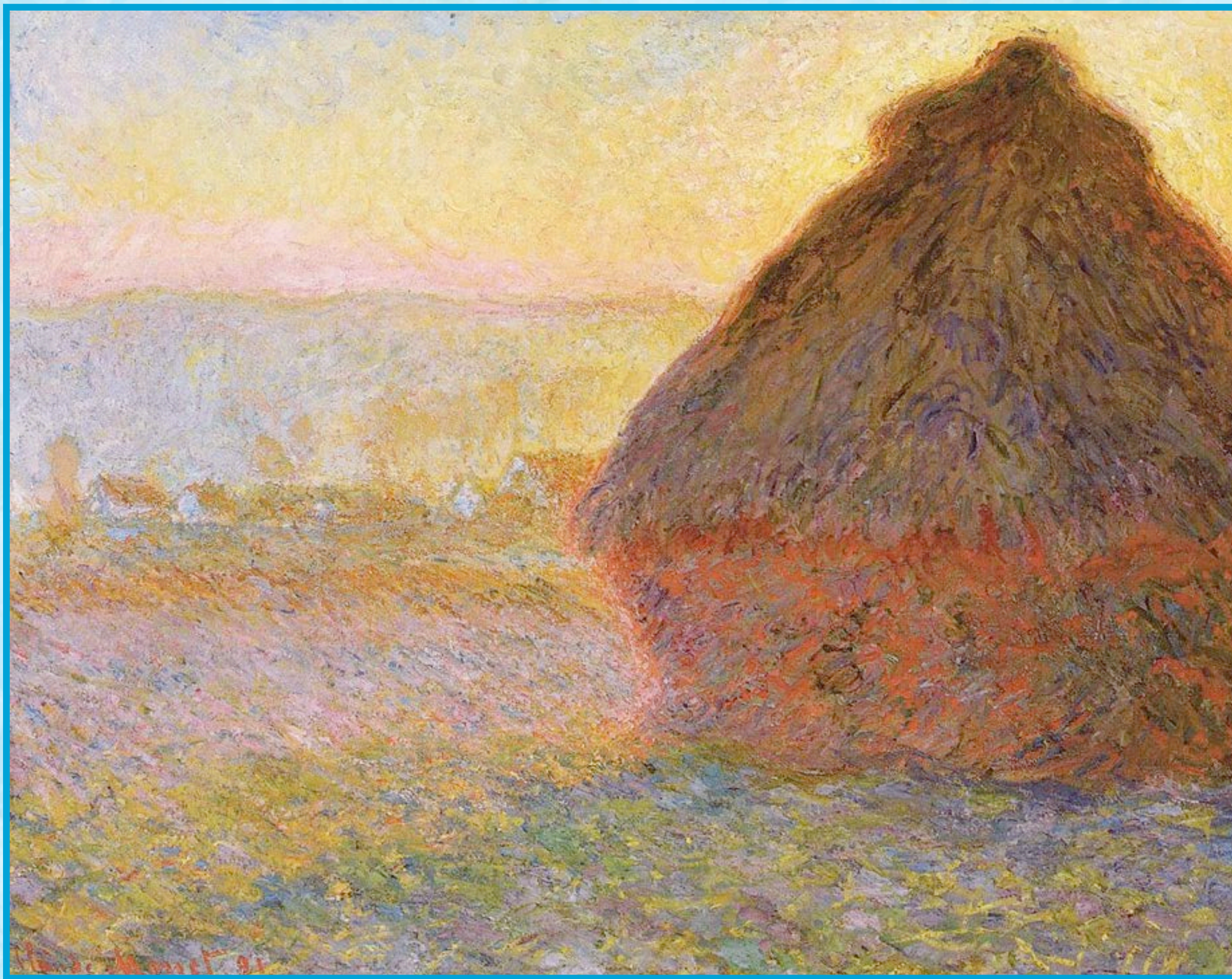


Have a look at these shadows. What colours can you see?



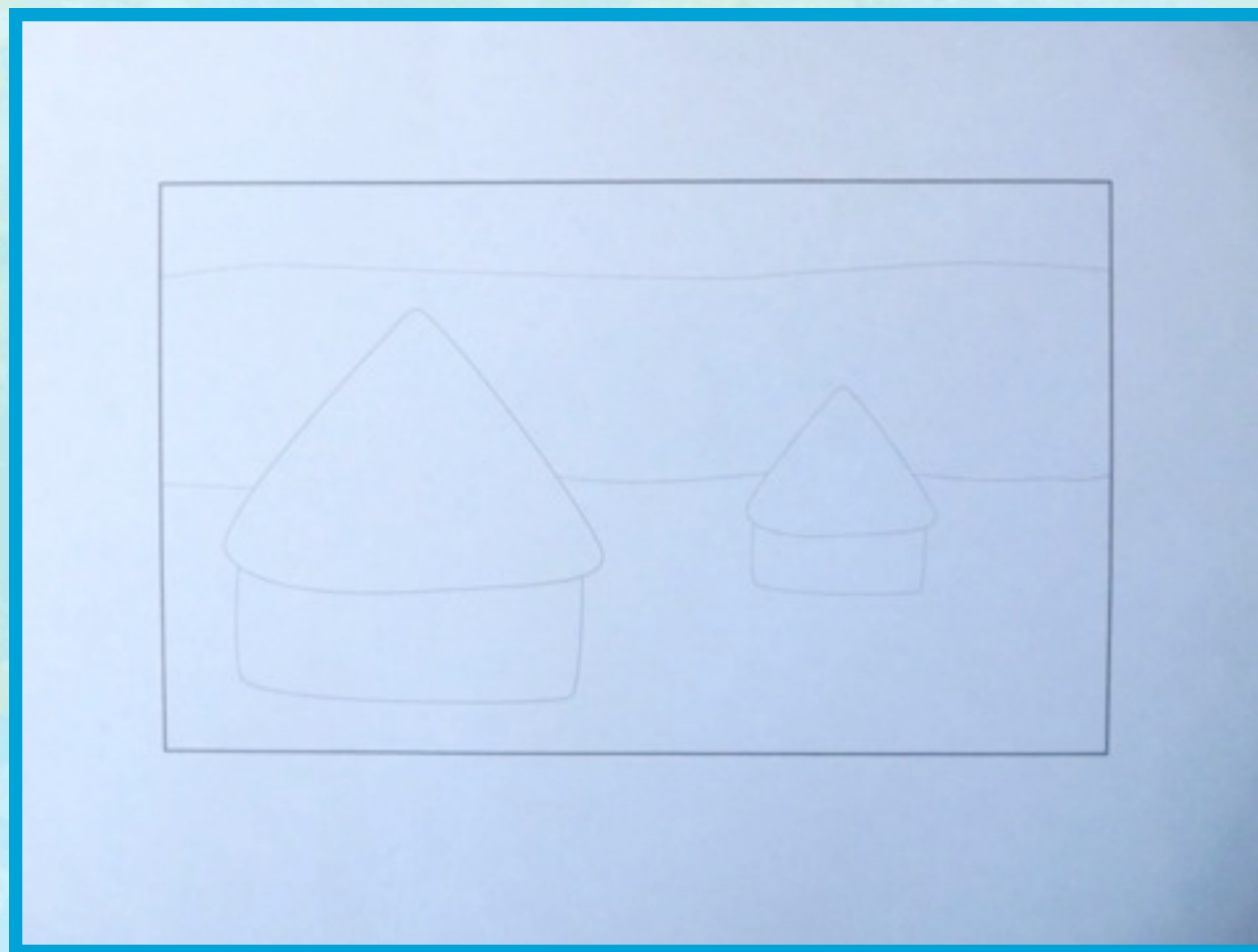


How about this shadow? What colours can you see?



Today we are
going to be recreating
Monet's 'Haystacks' series.
Let's have a look at how we
can do this...

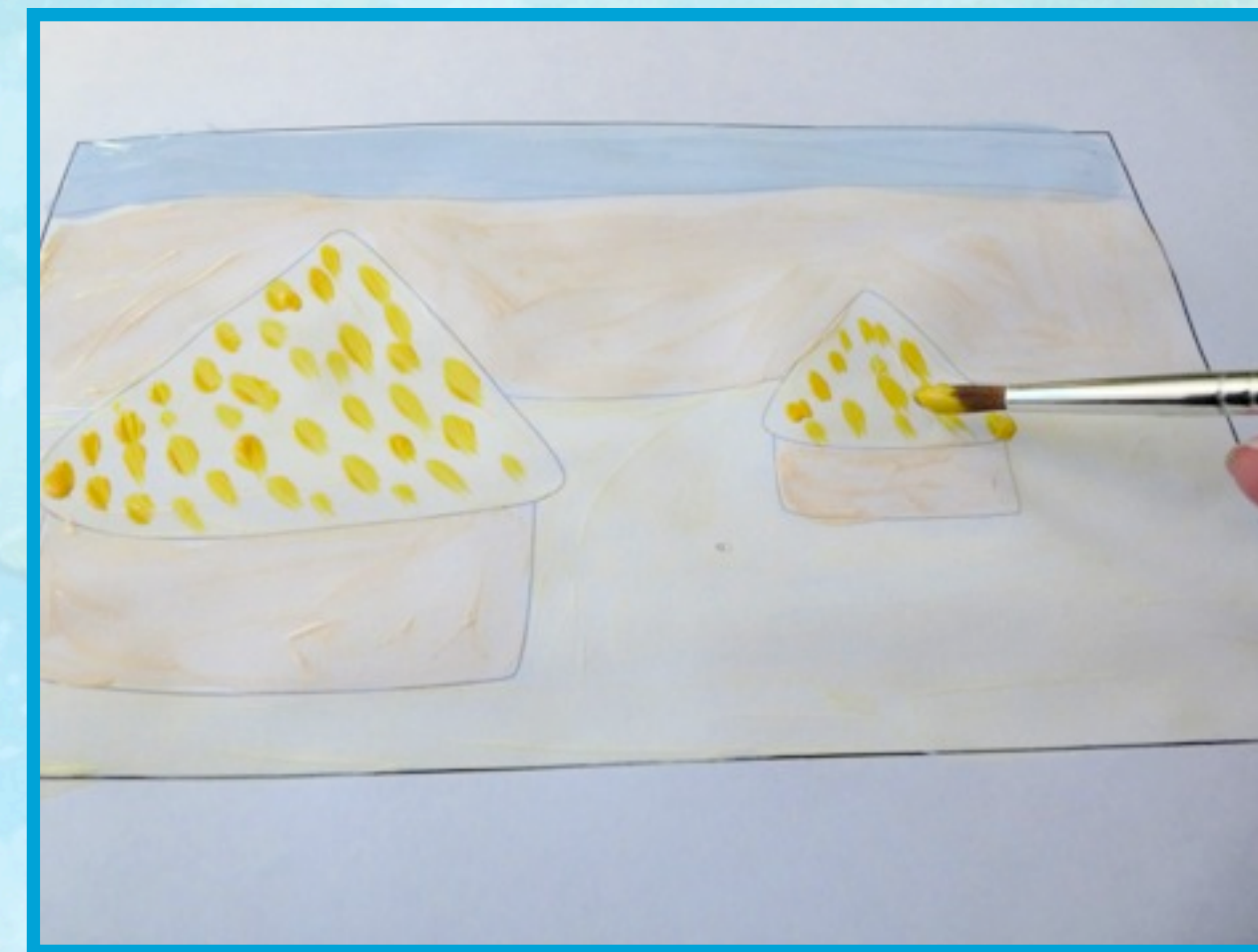




Draw a basic outline for the scene on a sheet of paper. Include the haystacks, horizon line and tree line.



Choose your colours depending on which season you will portray. Paint each section a light colour from the colours you have chosen.



Start painting over the background sections using quick dabs of paint. Make sure the dabs don't touch each other.



Mix different shades of colour on your paint palette (a paper plate is good for this). Add different shades of paint in dabs so you build up the colour.



Don't forget to include colour shadows. Darker shades of orange and yellow as well as brown have made these colour shadows.



The dabs of paint for the tree line have been painted in a different direction to give the impression of tall trees.



Keep going until you have covered the whole page so there are no unintentional white spots. You may need to go over the different sections adding more paint in different shades to get the effect you want.



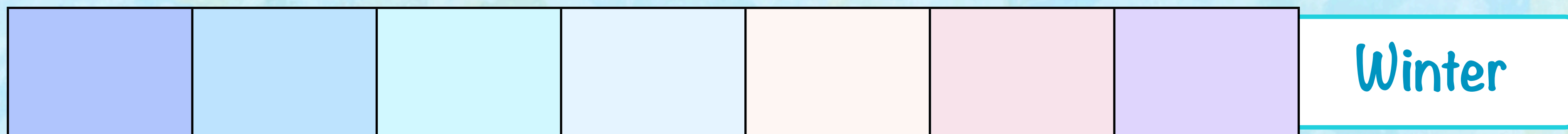
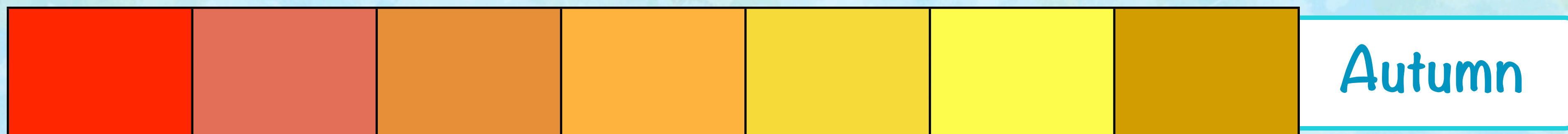
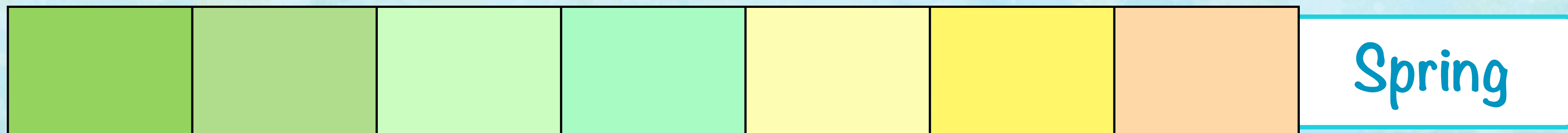
What season do you think has been portrayed in this scene? Why?



This scene is portraying summer. Warm colours like yellows, reds and oranges were used to show the summer light while browns were used to give the impression of dryness.

What colours might you choose if you were showing an autumn scene? How about winter or spring? How would the colours in each be different?





These are the colours I would use for the other seasons. What do you think of them? Do you agree with my choices?



Who's
ready to try
some haystack
painting?!

Plenary:

Monet didn't just use haystacks for his studies on light. He also did a whole series of paintings on Rouen Cathedral.



Let's have a look at some of them.
As we look, think about how
Monet has used colour to show
the light at different times of day
or in different seasons and
weathers...

