

Monet and the Impressionists

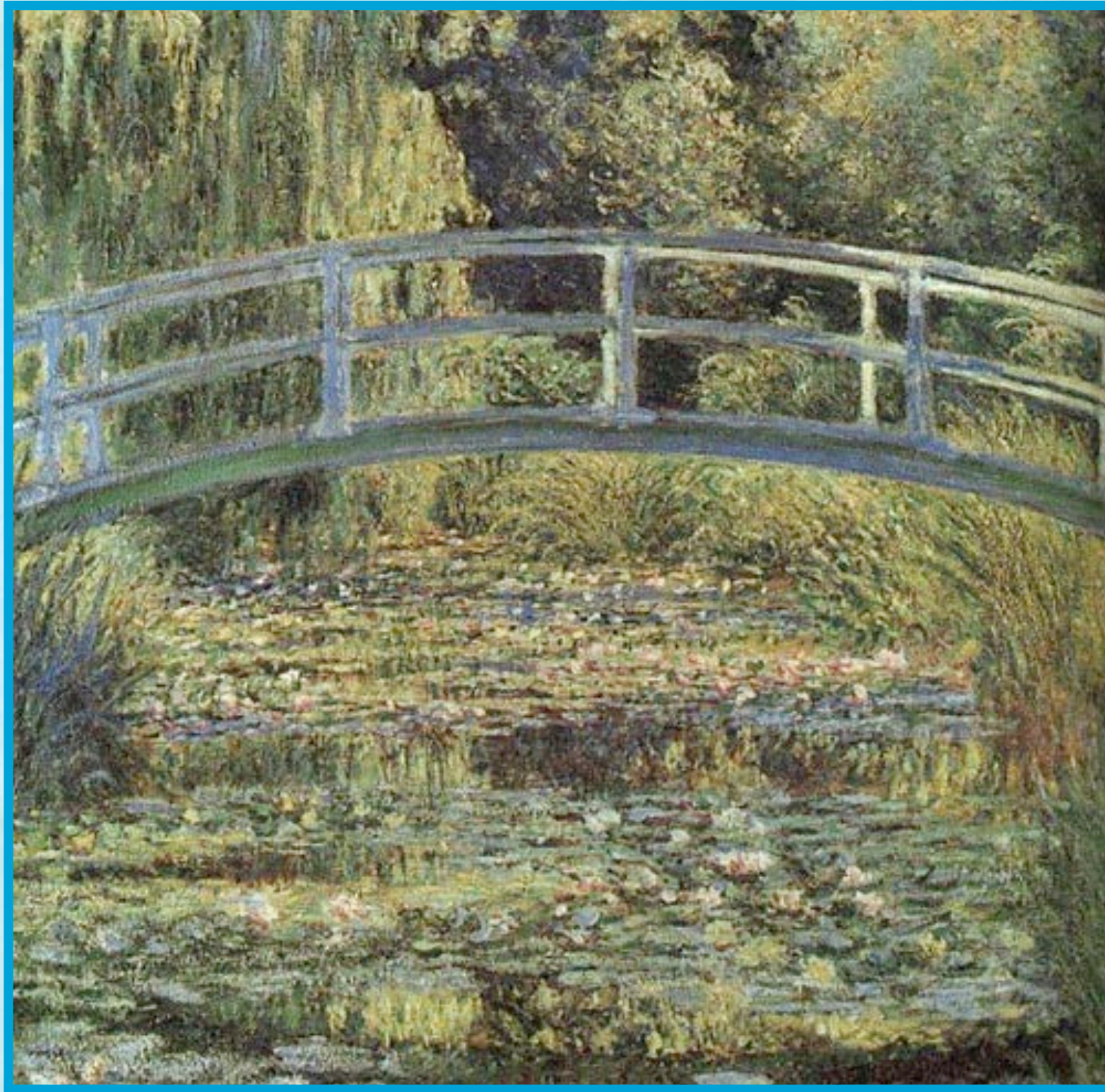
Learning Objective:

To explore the artwork produced by Monet in his later years at his garden in Giverny.



What do you think
is your favourite Monet
painting or series of paintings
we have looked at so far?
Why? What do you like
about it?

Some of Monet's most iconic works were created in his later years from the garden of his house at Giverny.



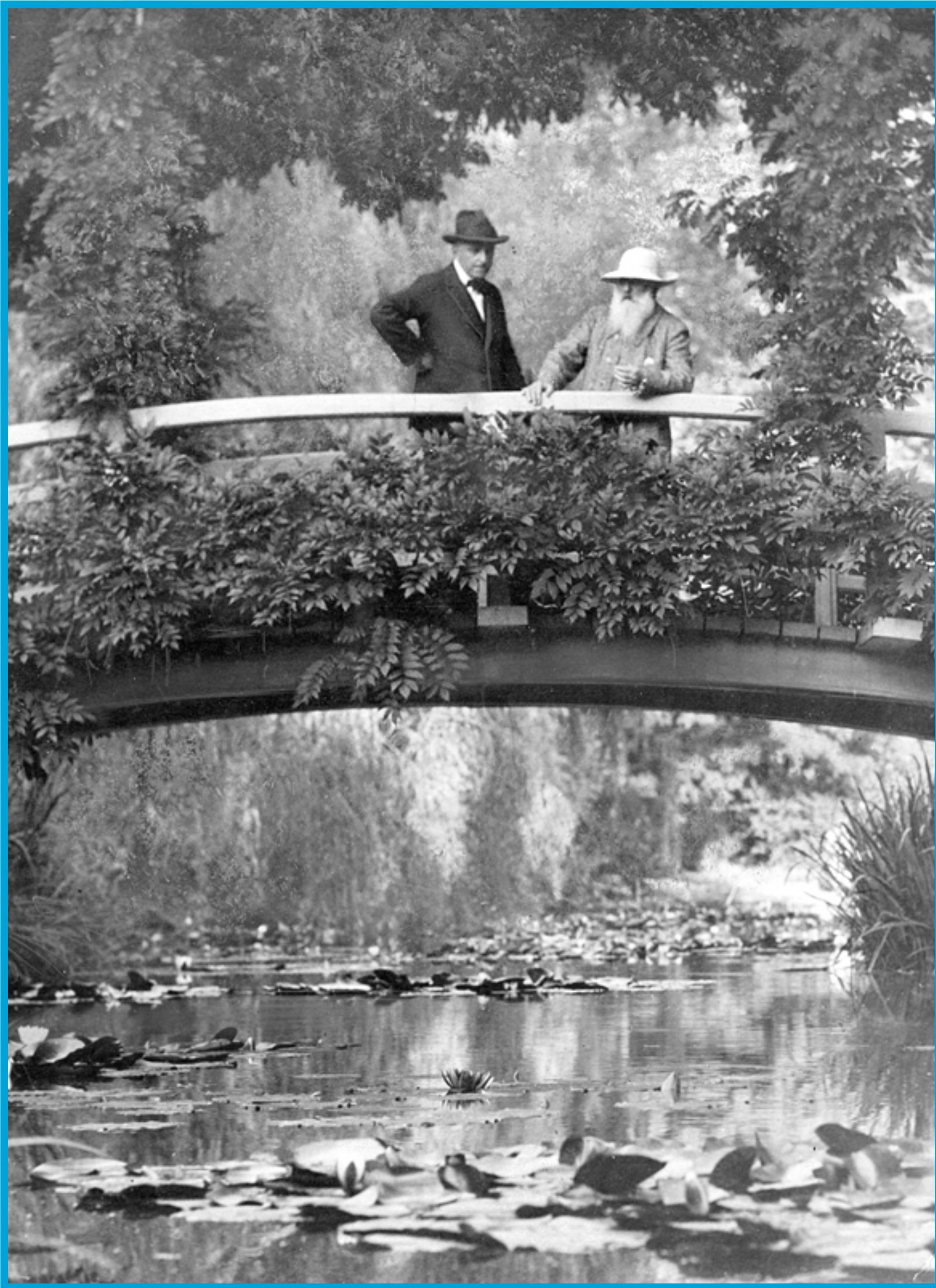
Have you seen these images before? What do you think of them?



In 1883, Monet rented a house in Giverny, a town about 50 miles outside of Paris. A few years later, he bought the house and a nearby meadow. He hired gardeners to sculpt the meadow into a garden with willow trees, a lily pond and many beautiful flowers.

In 1899, he created a series of paintings of the Japanese bridge he had installed in his garden.





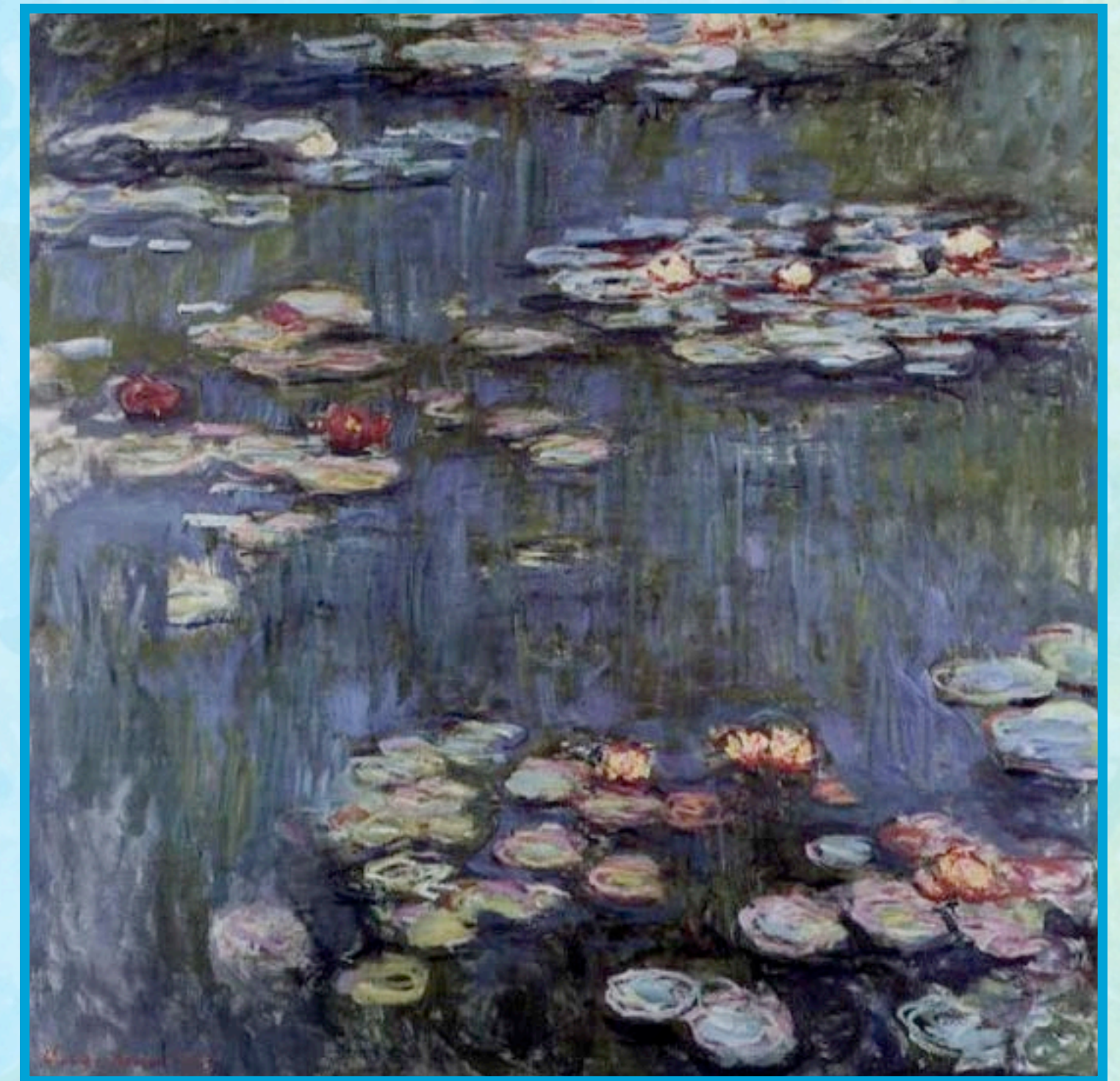
This photograph shows Monet with a friend on the Japanese bridge in the 1920s.

Monet loved his garden. In 1901 Monet said, "These landscapes of water and reflections have become an obsession." He spent most of his time painting in his garden, producing painting after painting. "They are bringing the canvases to me one after the other. A colour that I had found and sketched on one of these canvases yesterday reappears in the air. I am quickly given this painting and strive to fix this vision as permanently as possible. But it usually vanishes as fast as it sprang up, making way for another colour I had already painted days ago on another study instantly put in front of me... And that is the way it is all day long."

In 1912, it was discovered that Monet had cataracts. This is an eye condition which makes the lens of the eye cloudy and causes vision to become blurred. Despite difficulties with his sight, Monet's final series of paintings, which he produced from 1916 until his death in 1926, are often considered his greatest paintings.

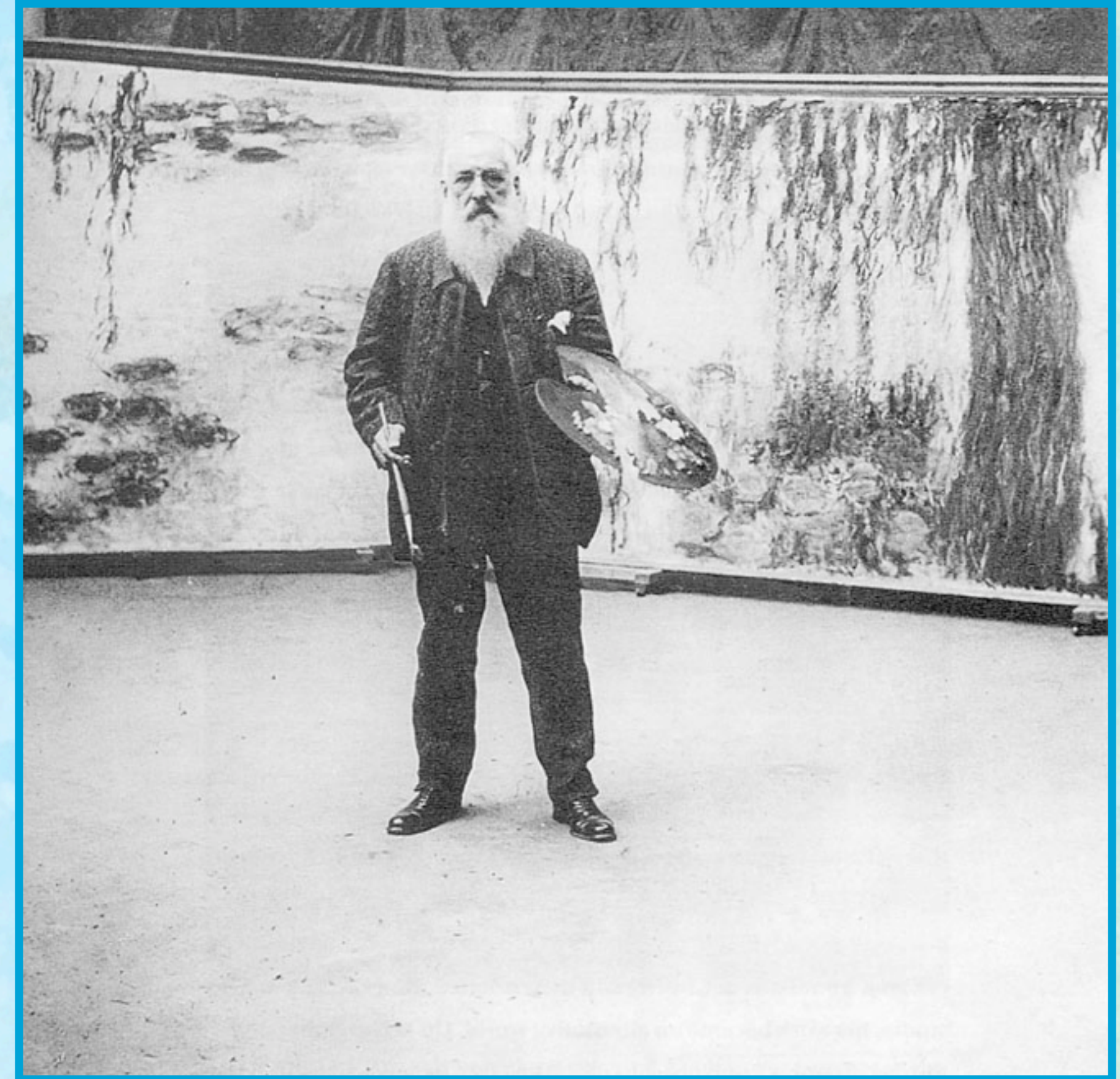
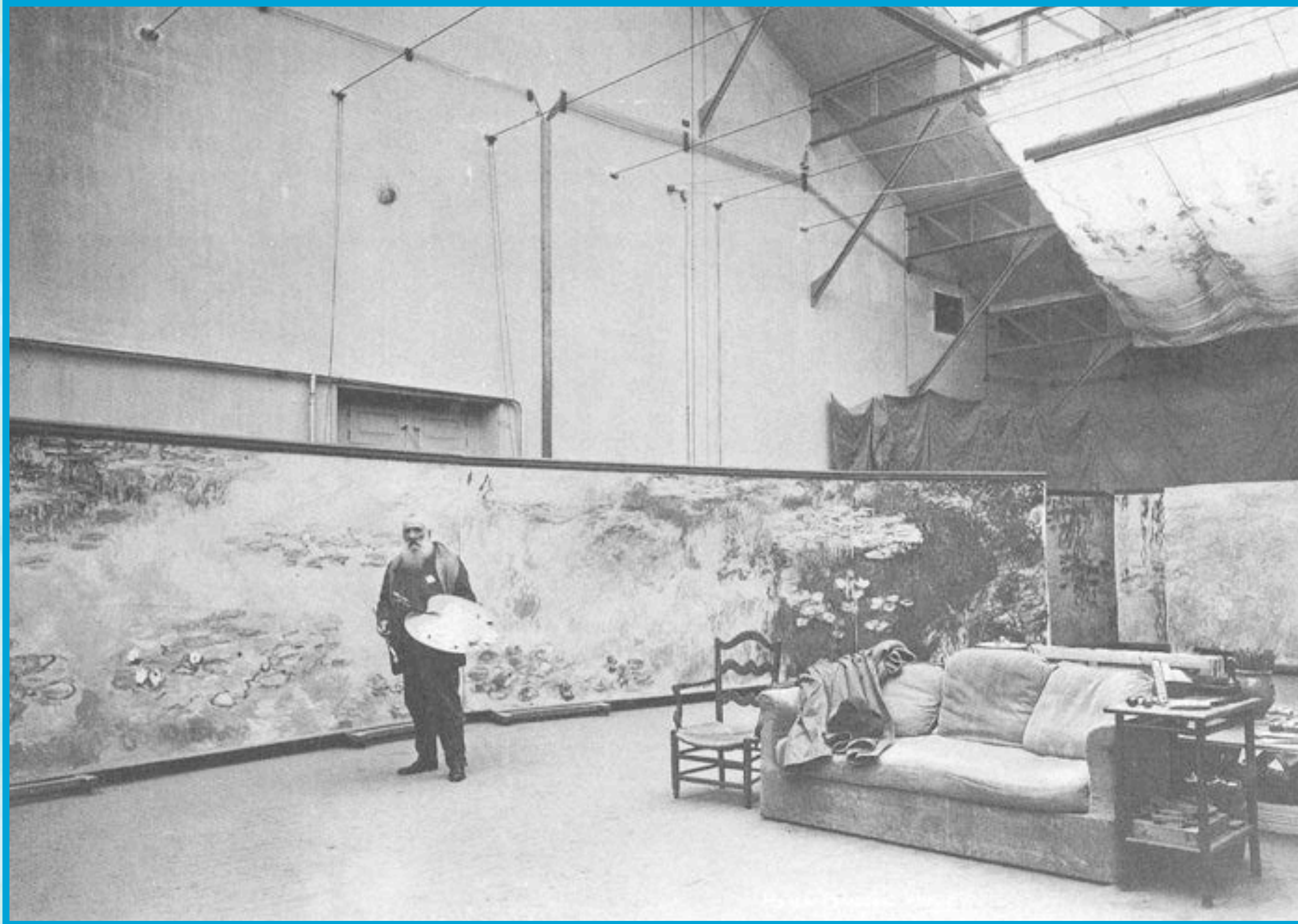


The final series is called 'Les Nymphéas' meaning 'The Water Lilies'.





These photos show Monet working on some of his 'Water Lilies' paintings. A lot of the series was painted on huge panels in his studio as his failing eyesight made smaller works more difficult.





Here are some more paintings from the 'Water Lilies' series. How would you describe them?



How do you think Monet would have felt as an artist suffering from deteriorating eyesight?





Today we're going to be working as a class to create a large water lily scene, just like Monet's large water lily canvases. Let's have a look at how we can do this...

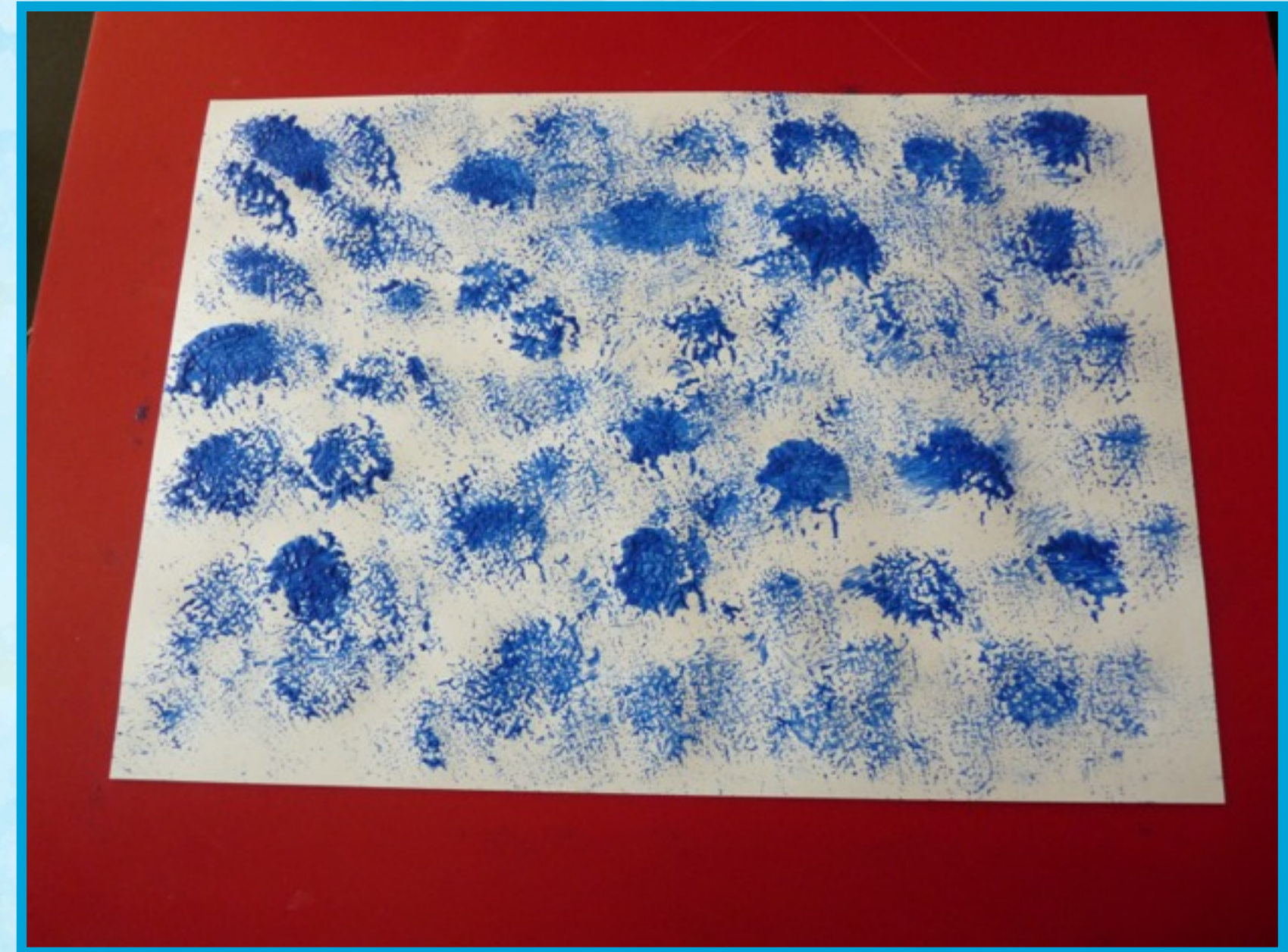
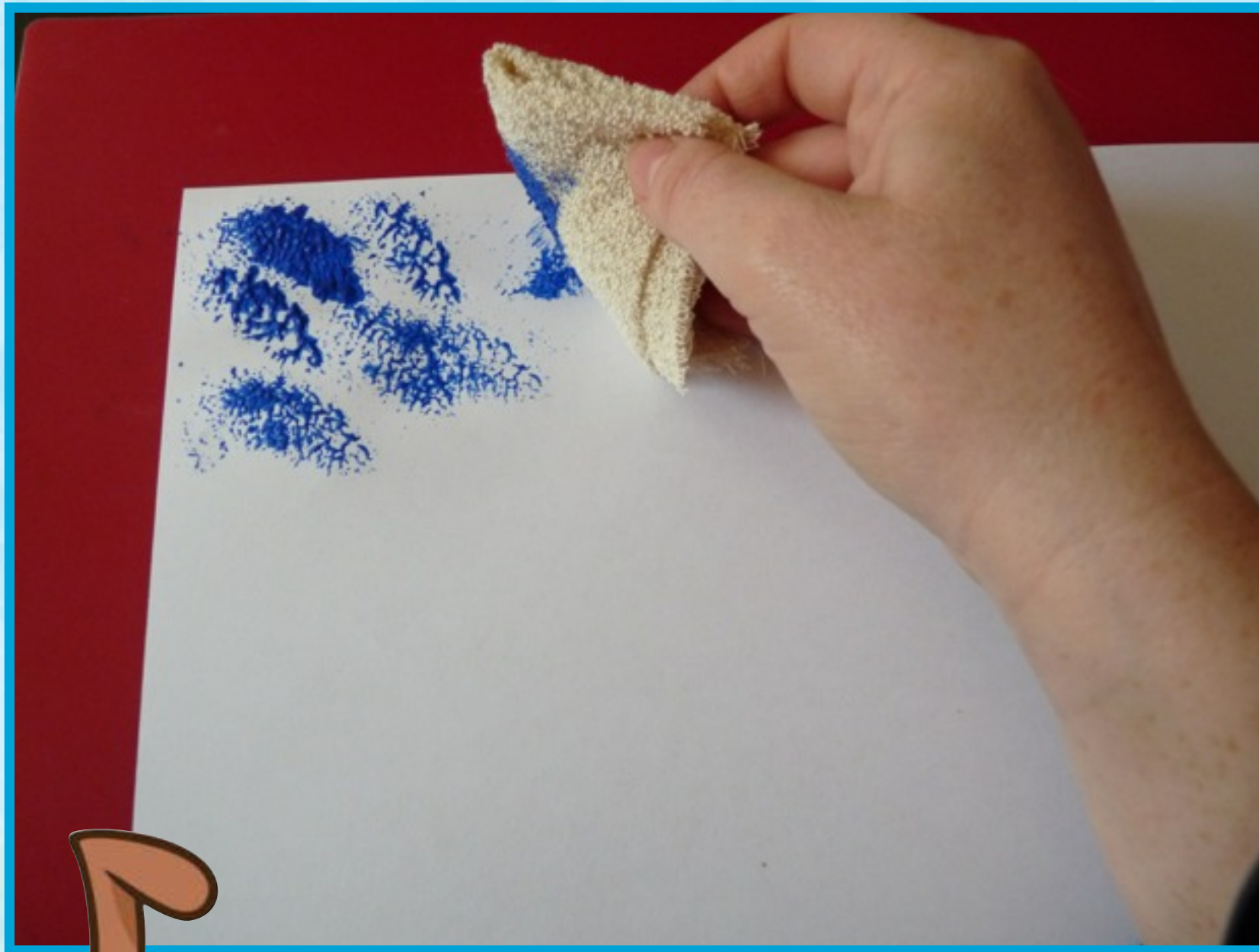
Each of us will create a part of the painting. First we need to make the base. This will be the water of the lily pond. To do this, take a sheet of white A4 card or thick paper and choose a few shades of paint using blues, greens and purples.



You don't need a paintbrush for this activity. We are going to use gauze instead! Gauze is a material that is often used for bandages.



Choose one colour to start with. Fold the gauze so it is a few layers thick and dip it into the paint. Press the gauze onto the paper and repeat this across the whole page.



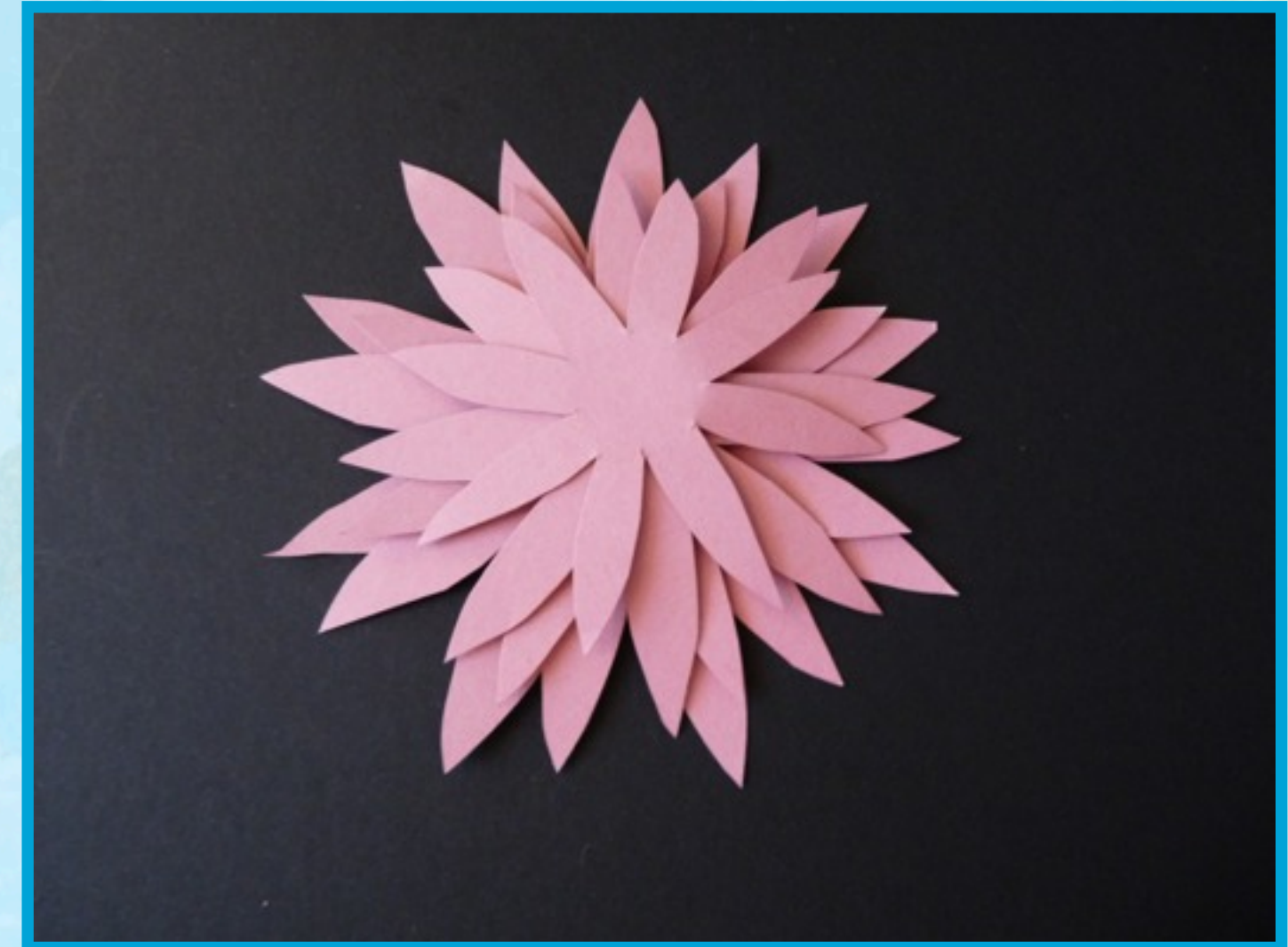
Make sure you press the gauze onto the paper. Don't drag it across like a brush or you won't get a good texture!

Choose a second colour and use the same technique, then repeat this with all your other colours. Make sure you use a clean section of your gauze each time you change colour.



Carry on until you have filled the whole page and left no paper showing through. You now have a base that looks like Impressionist water!

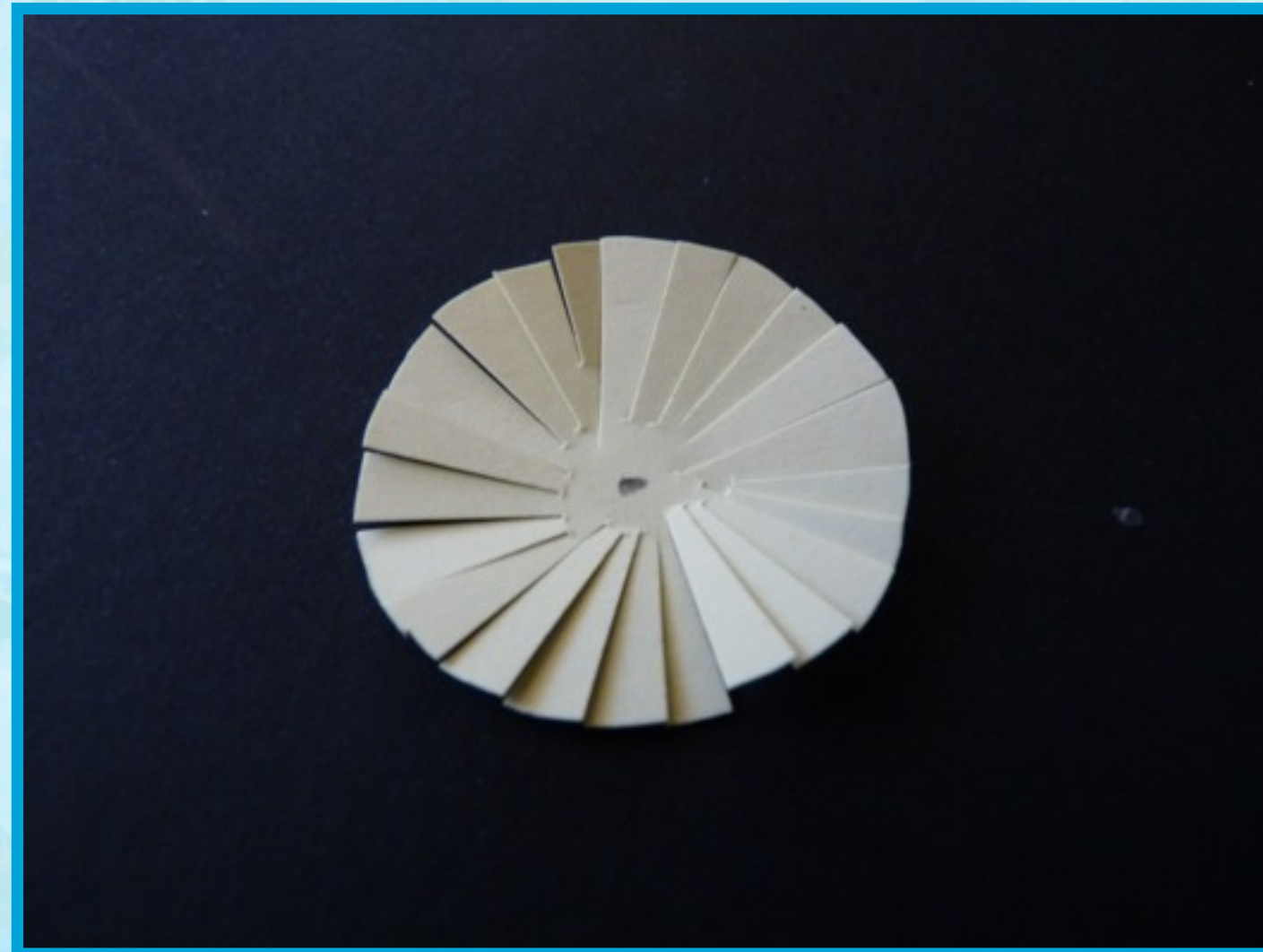
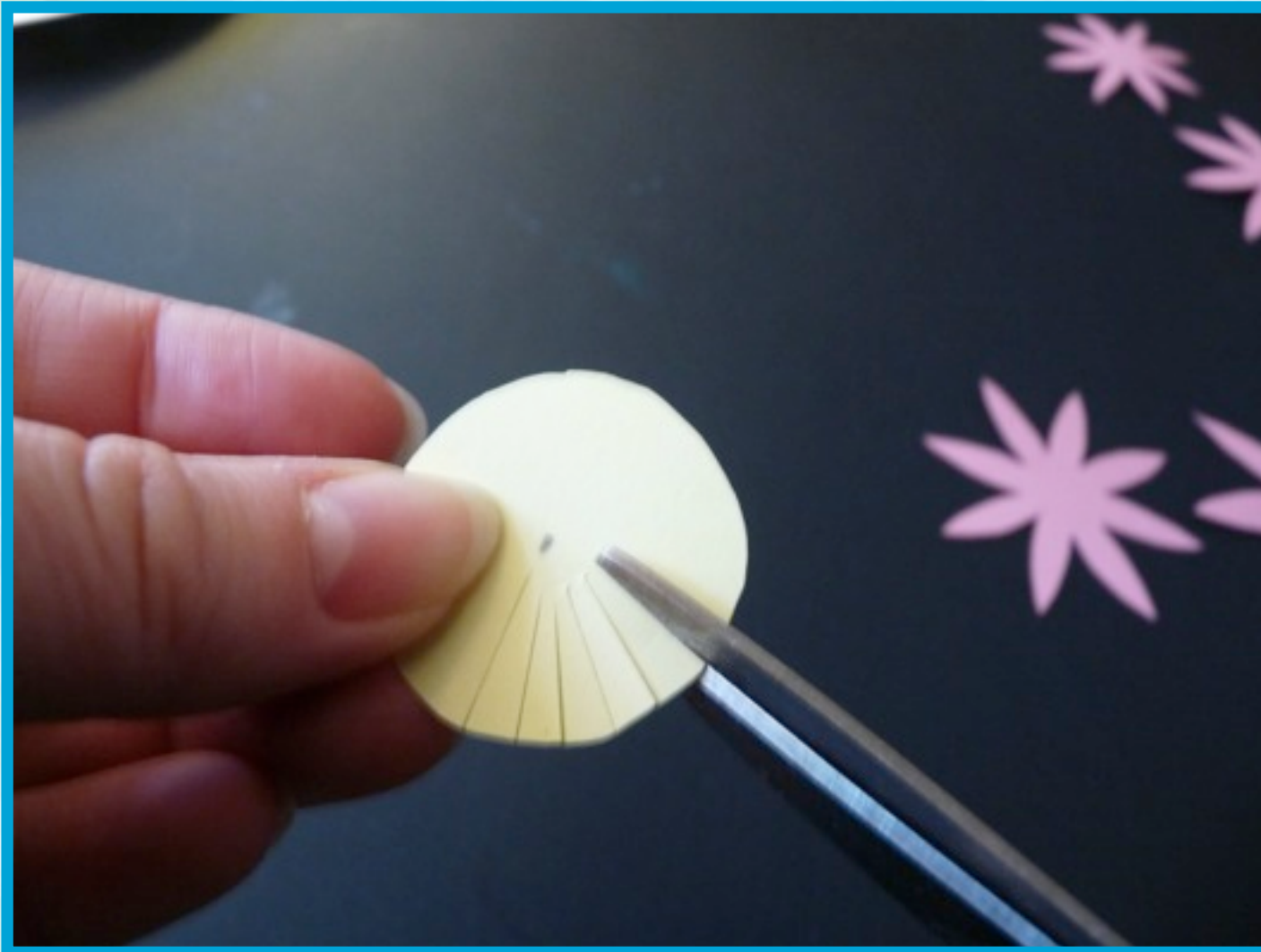
The next step is to make a water lily. Draw several flowers with around eight thin petals onto pink or purple card. Cut them out. It is best if you make the flowers different sizes.



Eventually each flower will be layered on top of another to create the water lily.

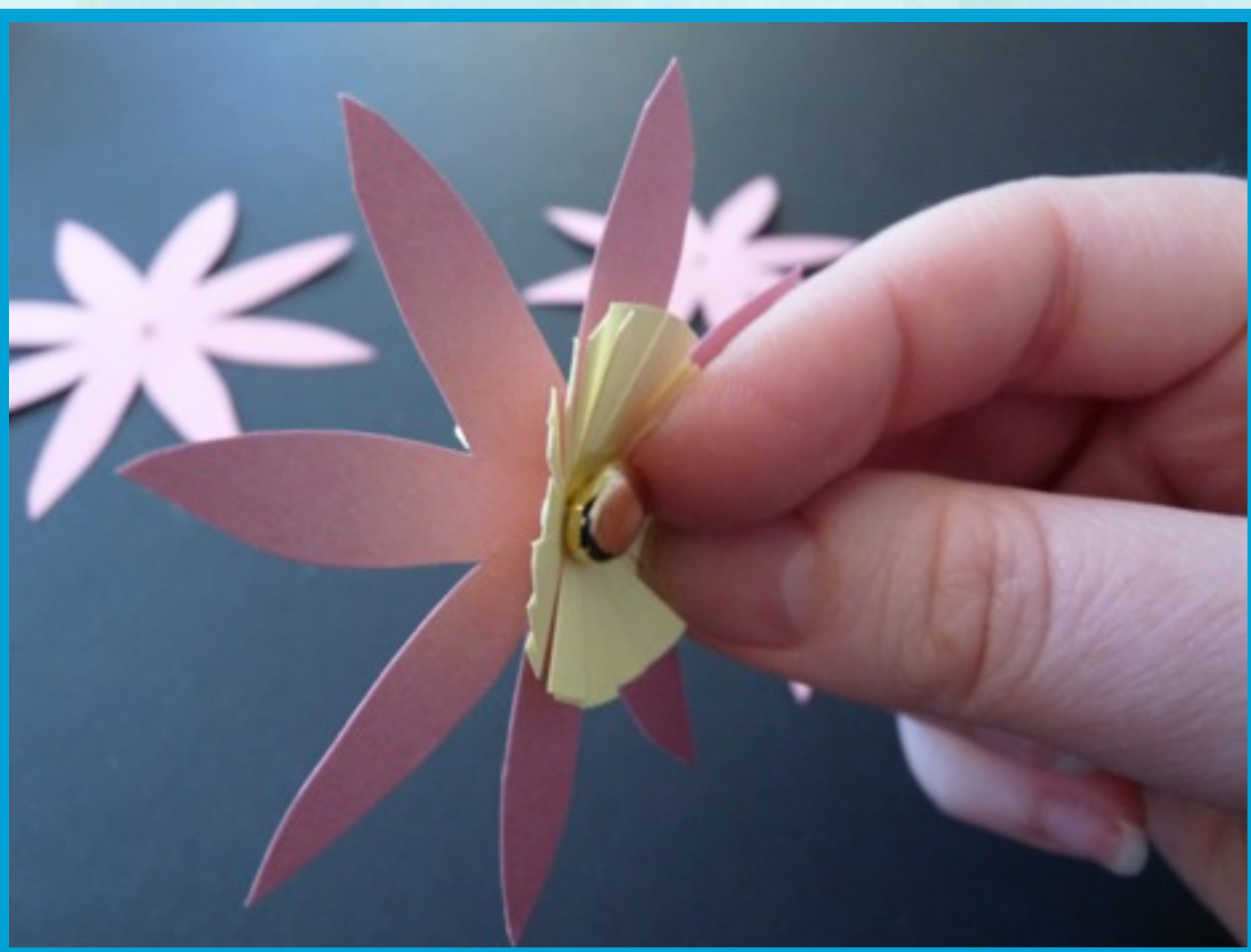


Cut out a small circle of yellow card and make a point to show where the centre is. Carefully cut little slits all around the circle. This will be the centre of the flower.

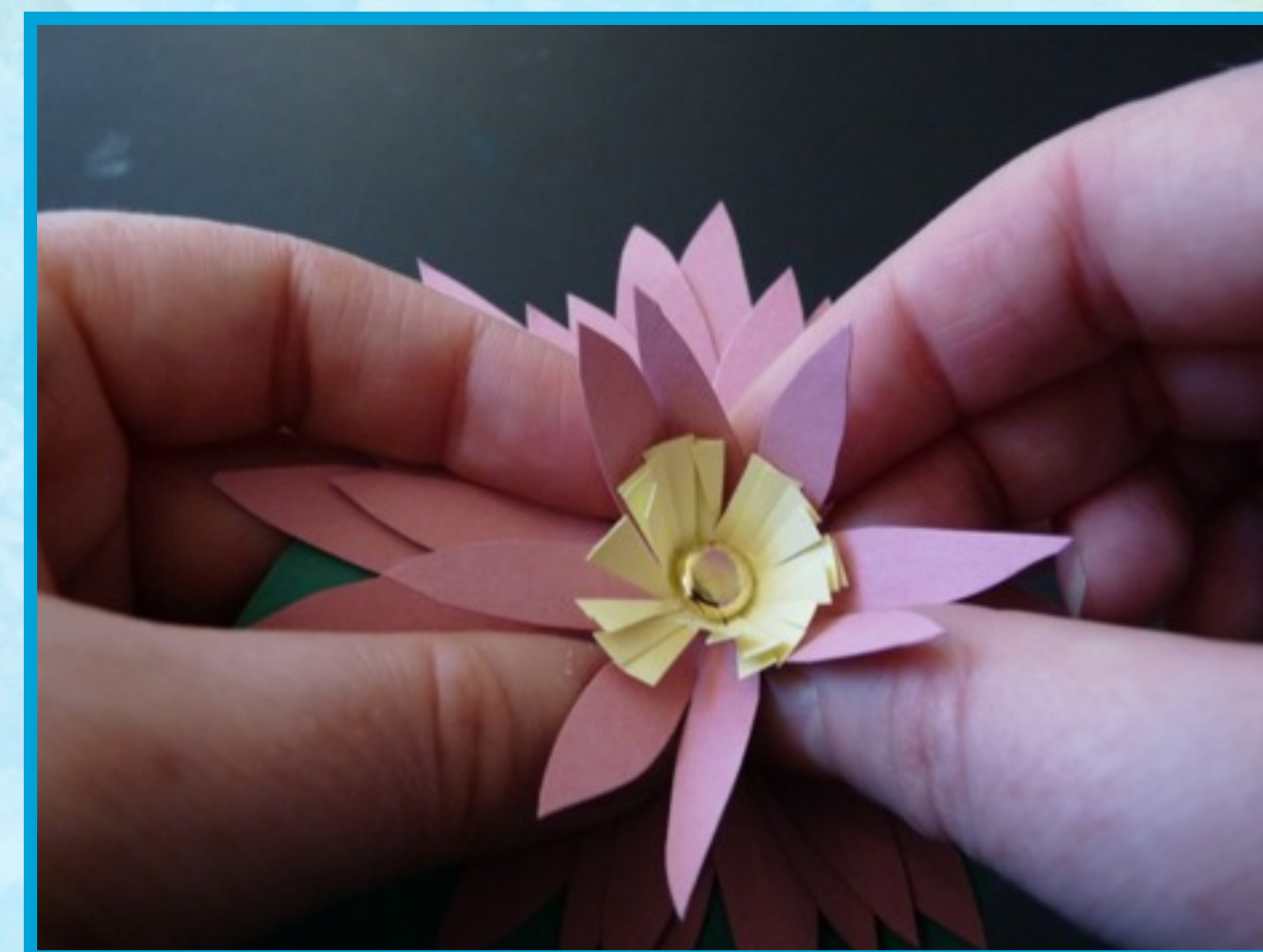
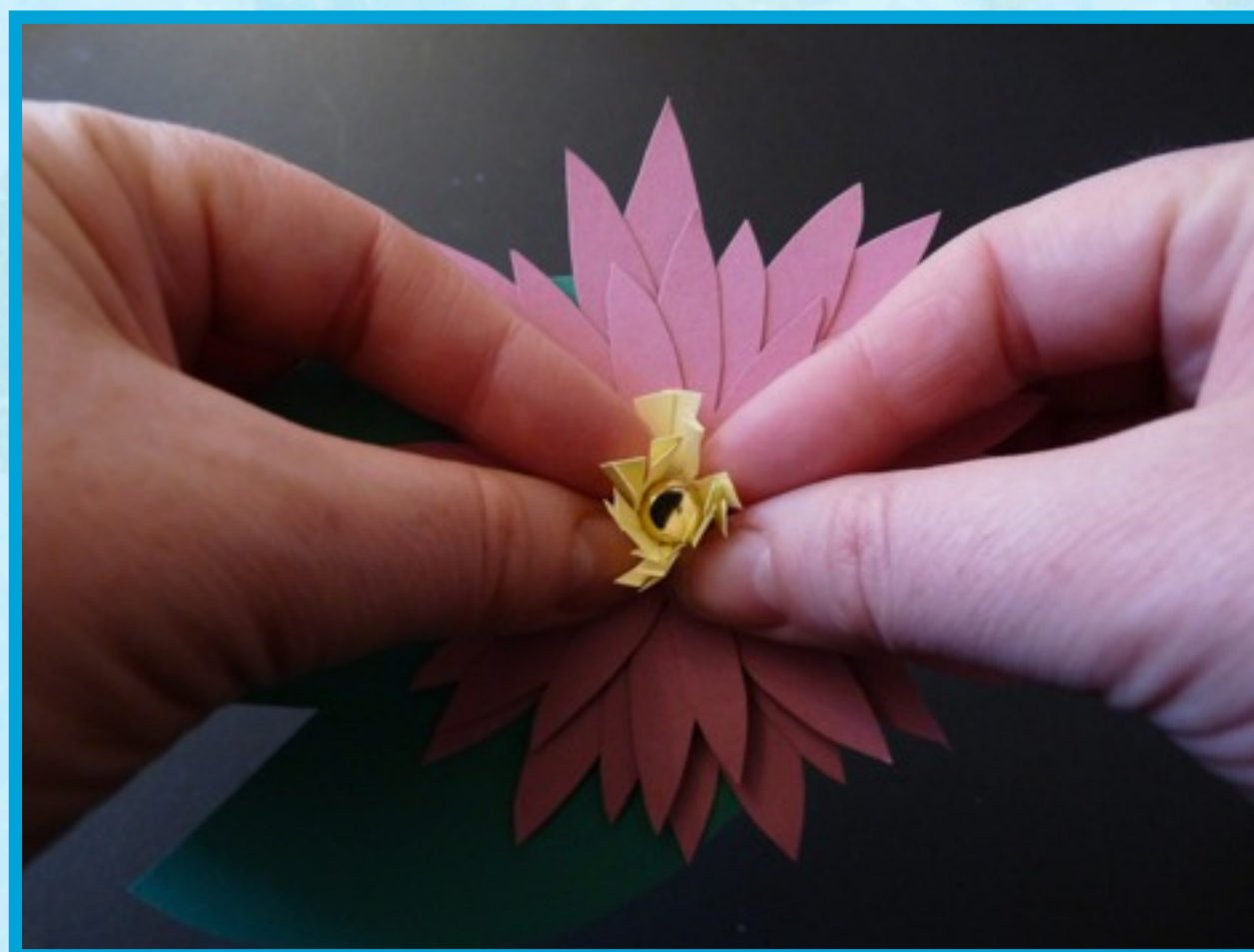


Very carefully, pierce a small hole in the centre of the circle and push a split pin through.

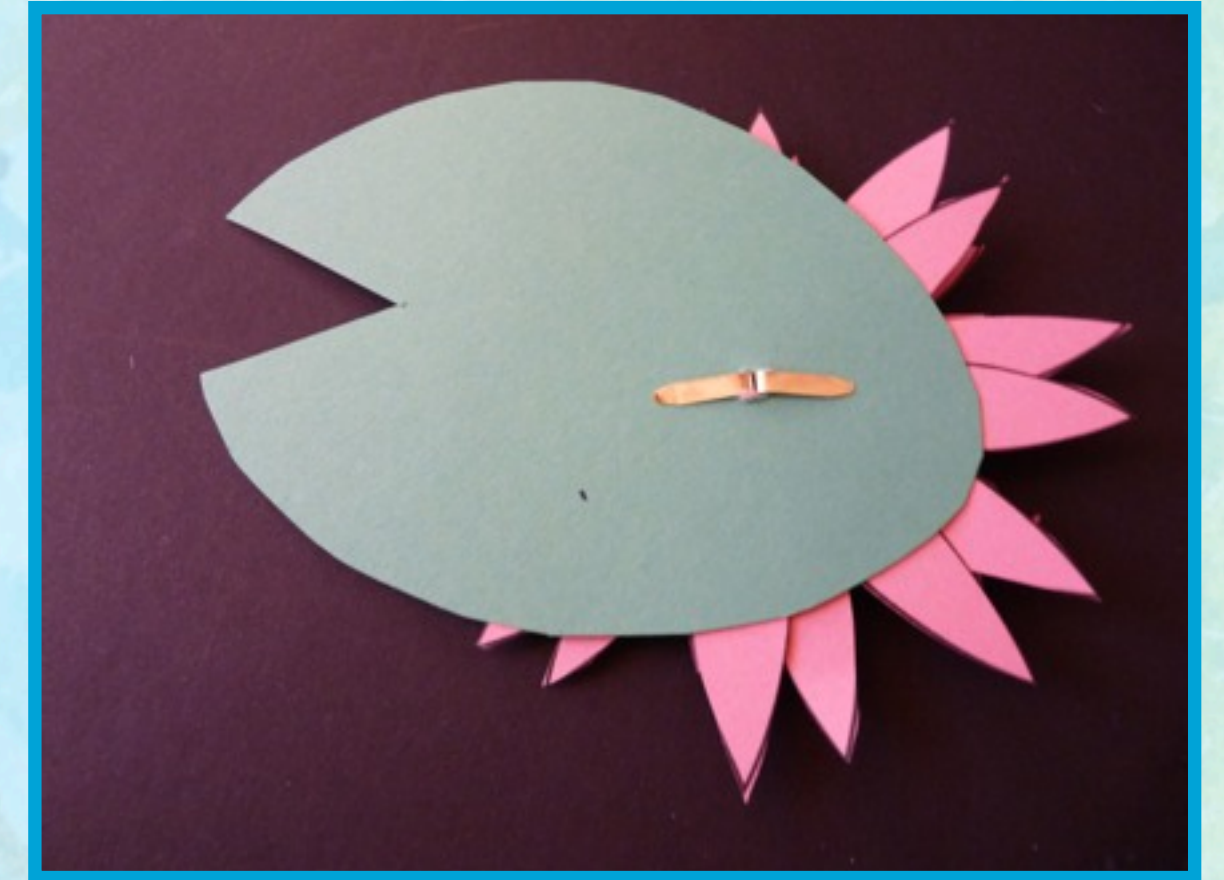
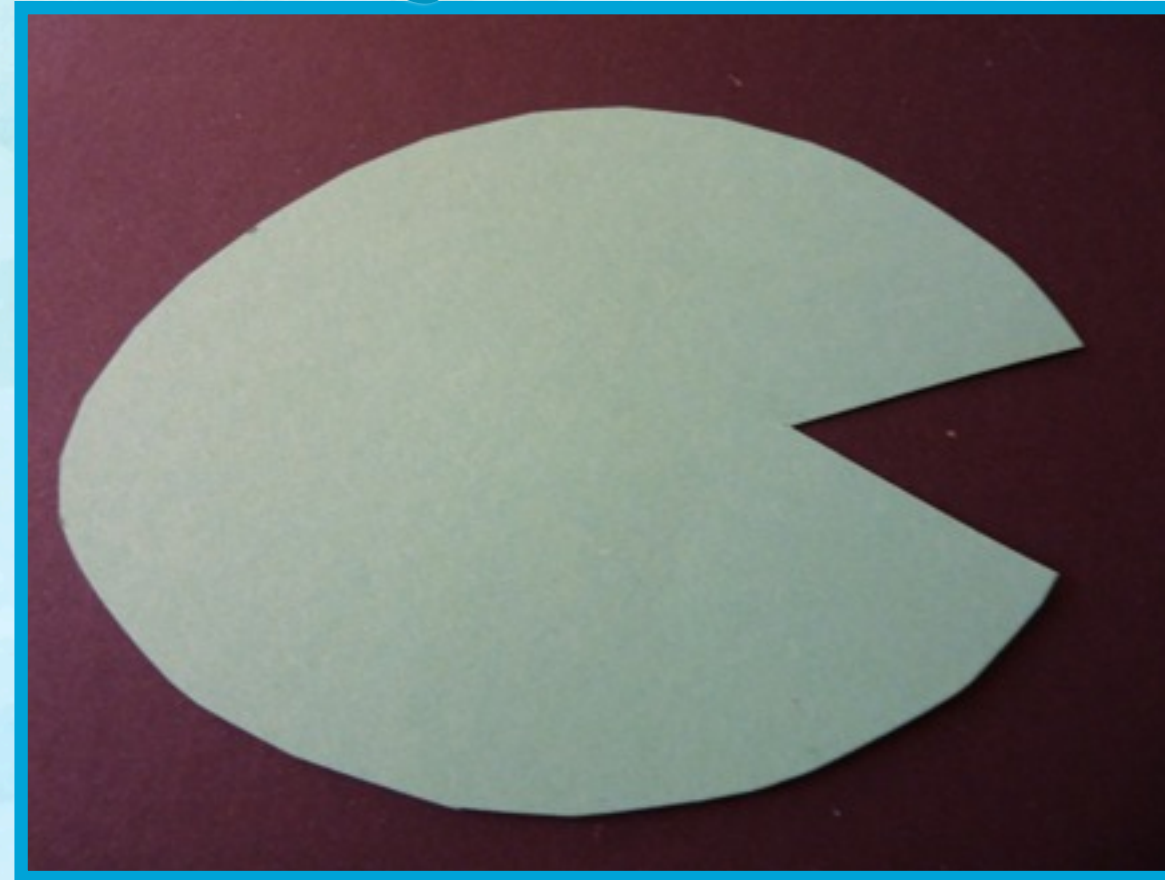
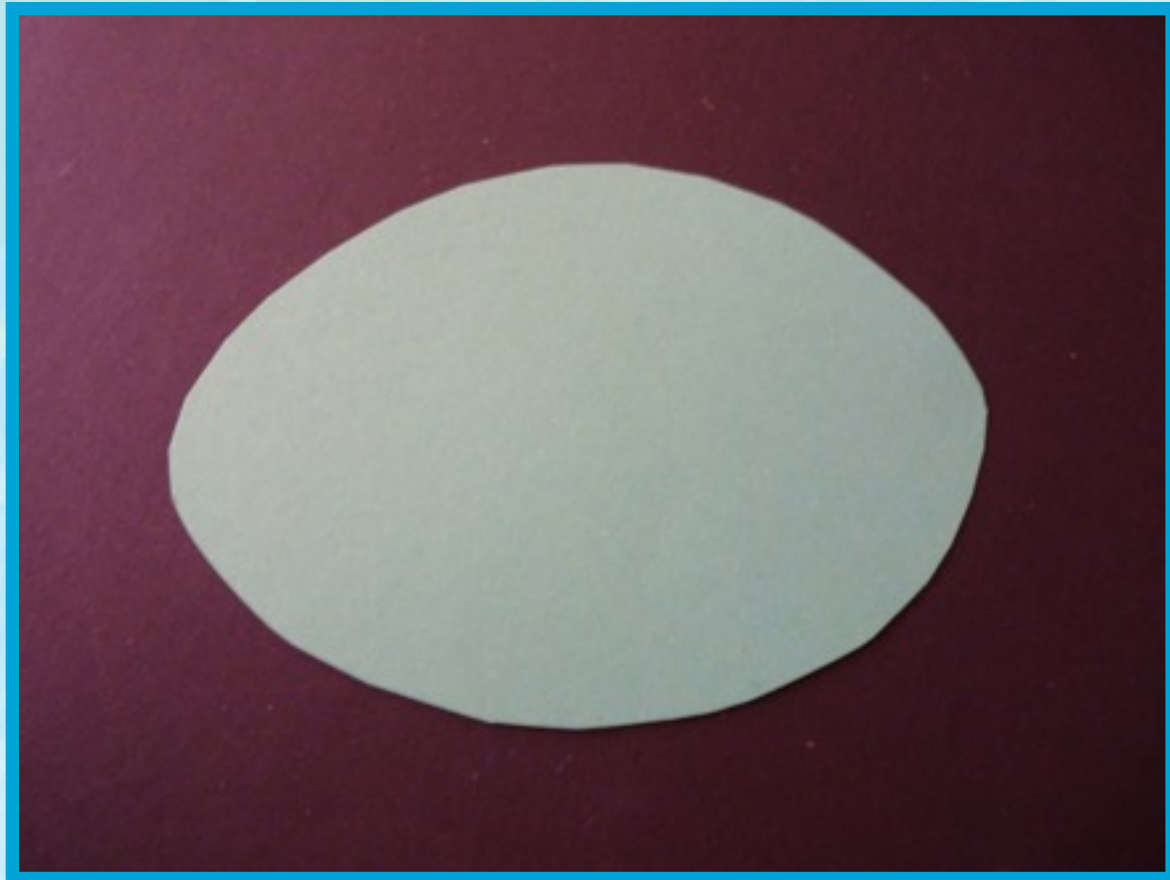
Pierce a hole in the centre of each of the flowers. Starting with the smallest, thread the flowers onto the split pin so that they are behind the yellow centre.



Once all the flowers are on the split pin, fold out the prongs at the back to secure them in place. Start shaping the petals by bending the card to give the lily shape.



Cut out an oval of green card and cut a triangle out of one end to make a lily pad. Pierce a hole on one side and put the split pin through, securing at the back.



You now have a water lily that you can stick onto your water base!





What do you think? Is there any way I could make this even better?



Another thing you could do is to apply the same technique of 'gauze dabbing' to the flower and lily pad. Just choose a few shades of pink for the flowers and a few shades of green for the pad to make the style match that of the water.



Once you have all finished your individual sections, they can be put together to create a big water lily painting, just like the famous Monet paintings!