



## Monet's Water Lilies

Easy, Elegant, and Inexpensive!

In the last 30 years of his life, French Impressionist Claude Monet (1840-1926) produced a series of approximately 250 oil paintings depicting the flowers and pond in his garden at Giverny. He especially loved painting his water lilies and the reflections of the sky and trees floating in the water around them.

In honor of Monet, here's an easy way to make a tissue paper lily that has the misty, atmospheric qualities an Impressionist would have loved. It just requires watersoluble tissue paper that "bleeds" when moistened.

**GRADES K-8** Note: instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 25 students. Adjust as needed.

### Preparation

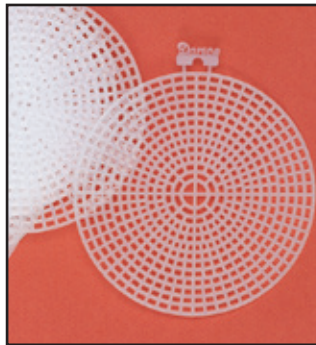
1. Cut tissue paper down into approximately 5" squares (they don't have to be perfectly shaped!). Plan on using at least 25 squares per lily — approximately one 20" x 30" sheet of tissue per student.

### Process

1. Since water lilies are typically multi-toned, select 2-3 colors of tissue paper squares. These will form the "petals" of the lily.
2. Pinch the middle of a tissue square and twist it to form a stem. Push it through one of the larger holes in the center of the stitchery canvas. Push another through the hole directly opposite. Move outward two or three rows and push another petal through. Keep adding petals, working outward to the edge of the plastic canvas circle.

NOTE: Keep space between — don't crowd the petals. You'll want to use just enough to cover the canvas. The back side will look like Step 2 on the following page..

3. Spritz both sides of the lily generously with water. As an option, place a few pieces of a darker tissue on top of the wet lily and spritz it. This will tint just the edges of the petal. Allow to dry.
4. Cut a lily pad shape from green construction paper. Use the template on page 3, if needed. With colored pencils, apply veining and highlights to the leaf shape. Generously apply glue to the back of the tissue paper stems and press the flower onto the the lily pad.



### Materials

**Plastic Canvas Circles**, 4-1/2" dia, package of 10 (63103-1830); need one canvas per student

**Spectra<sup>®</sup> Deluxe Art Tissue**, assorted colors, 20" x 30"; share one package of each among class; recommend:

- Bright Colors, package of 20 sheets (11306-1029)
- White, package of 24 sheets (11306-1013)

**Blick<sup>®</sup> Construction Paper**, Holiday Green, 9" x 12", package of 50 (11409-7093); need one sheet per student

**Elmer's<sup>®</sup> Tacky Glue**, 4-oz (23883-1004); share 3-4 bottles among class

**Westcott<sup>®</sup> All-Purpose Preferred<sup>®</sup> Scissors**, bent 7" (57608-4868); one pair

**Blick<sup>®</sup> Essentials Colored Pencils**, set of 12 (22429-0129); share eight sets across class





**Step 1:** Twist tissue paper squares to form stems.



**Step 2:** Insert the twisted end into the larger openings on the round plastic canvas. Repeat until canvas is covered



**Step 3:** Spritz the finished flower with water to make colors bleed. When dry, glue it to the lily pad leaf.



**Options:**

1. Cut 3" orange, yellow, and red squares to make shorter petals for sunflowers, a favored subject for still life paintings by Vincent Van Gogh. Mount to green construction paper stems.

**National Standards for Visual Arts Education**

**Content Standard #1** — Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes

**K-4** Students use different media, techniques, and processes to communicate ideas, experiences, and stories

**5-8** Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques, and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas.

**Content Standard #5** — Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others

**K-4** Students describe how people's experiences influence the development of specific artworks.

**5-8** Students compare multiple purposes for creating works of art.

