

Name: _____

Date: _____

Study Sheet: From Realist to Impressionist

Realism was pioneered by Gustave Courbet.

Think about Courbet's work and the style of Realism in terms of the following categories:

Focus: **Real life, even (especially) the ugly and awkward parts**

Subject Matter: **No subject was unworthy of portrayal; subjects were not glorified**

Goals: **To make art that depicted the uglier realities of life**

Style: **Explored medium, used expressive brushstrokes, didn't make perfect lines or perfectly smooth surfaces**

Look at Honoré Daumier's *Third-Class Carriage*.
Why is this considered a Realist painting?

The main subject matter depicts the lower class, which would have been considered unworthy of representation in art before Realism.

How did Impressionism differ from Realism? (Think about subject matter and color versus content.)

For the Impressionists, light, color, shape, and form were the most important elements of painting. Unlike in Realism, creating realistic objects and figures were secondary.

Many new painting perspectives and techniques were developed as the Impressionists looked beyond subject matter.

Look at *The Fifer* and *Luncheon on the Grass*, two works by Édouard Manet. How did these works differ from the art that came before it?

The Fifer

Luncheon on the Grass

There is no background or sense of perspective.

The flesh tones of the nude are presented in stark contrast to the surrounding grays.

What was Claude Monet most interested in?

Monet was interested in exploring light and color, and how these two elements could be used to reflect the constantly shifting natural world.

How did Impressionism depict reality? How was this different from the Realists' depiction?

Impressionists depicted reality through studying light and color.

Realists depicted reality through their literal subject matter.

List some other notable Impressionists:

Auguste Renoir, Mary Cassatt, Edgar Degas