

Key Knowledge:

The theme of winter has inspired artists for many centuries. Winter is very challenging for artists to depict. Winter patterns were very unusual in western art until the Renaissance. The first depictions of snow began in the 15th and 16th centuries. Paintings that depict snow are usually landscapes, using the quality of grey winter light to create the special winter atmosphere. Depictions of snow are essentially a North European theme. This was inspired by a long winter in 1564-1655 known as 'The Little Ice-age.'

In 1565, Bruegel painted his work, 'The Hunters in the Snow' and this is considered to be one of the first pieces of winter artwork.

The Impressionists were the first artists who made plein-air painting a major genre. Artists paid close attention to the various colours of light that are reflected from objects and captured these in their paintings.

Media and techniques:

- Watercolours with a focus on colour, light and shadow.
- Different brush strokes and painting techniques.
- Pastel – stippling, cross-hatching, blending.

Example artwork:



Boulevard Saint-Denis – Claude Monet



Breton Village in the Snow – Paul Gauguin

Example Artwork:



The Magpie – Claude Monet



Winter Landscape - Kandinsky



Farquharson

Beneath the Snow Encumbered branches – Joseph



The Hunters in the Snow – Pieter Bruegel



Winter Landscape – Caspar David Freidrich



Winter Night Ekely - Edvard Munch



The Drum Bridge - Hiroshige