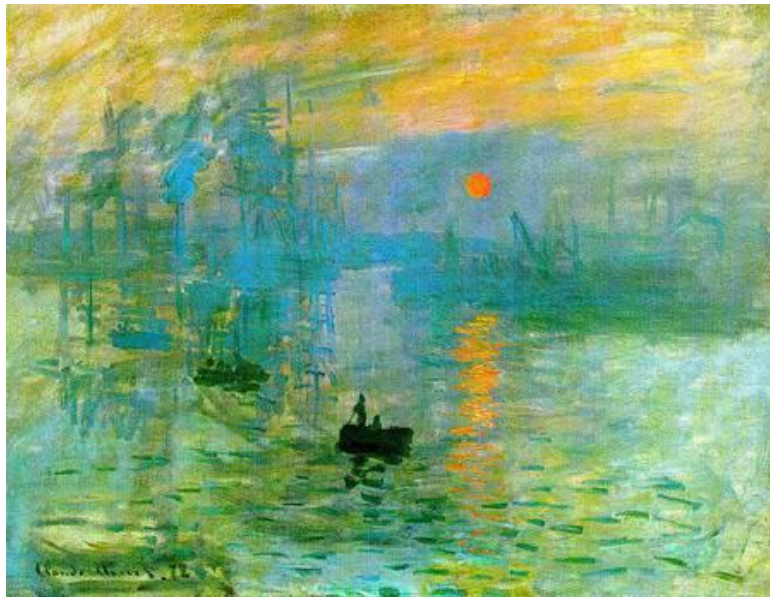
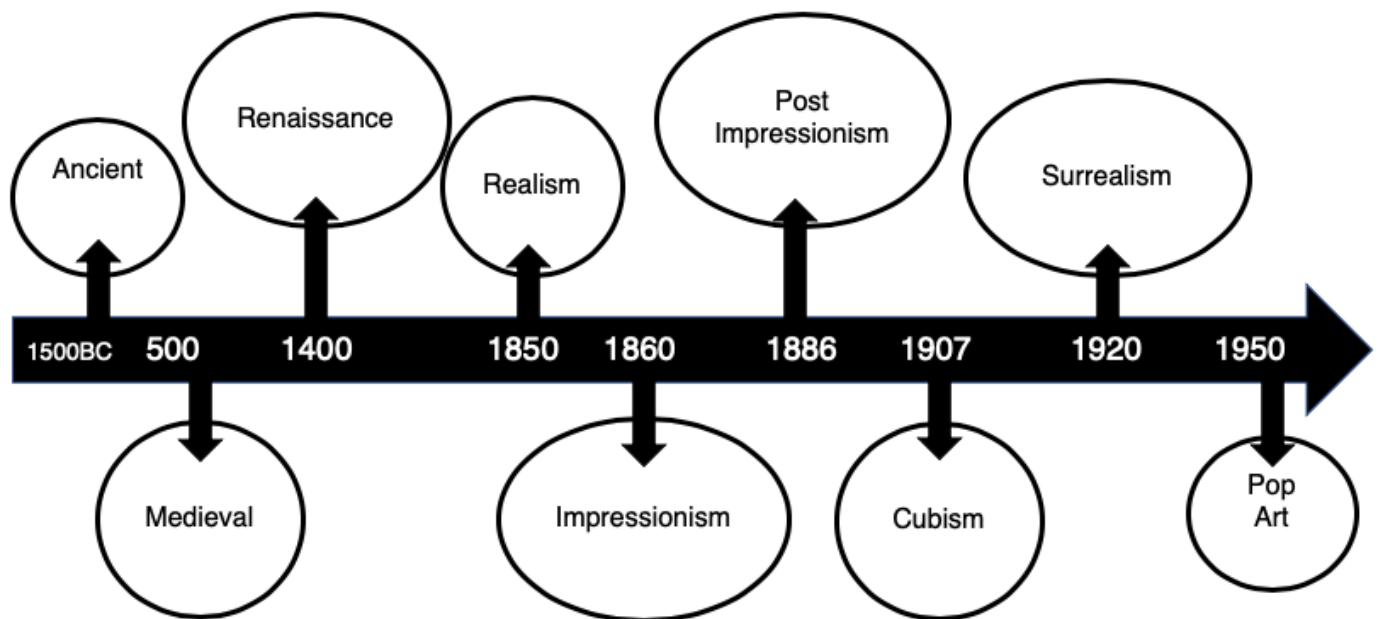


Impressionism



Homework 1

About Impressionism



These are examples of different art movements. **An art movement is a period of time when artists worked in similar styles inspired by similar ideas.** Look where Impressionism falls within the timeline, after Medieval art (The Celts) and the Renaissance that we studied last year.

Realism

Before Impressionism artists tended to paint realistically. Realist artists painted everyday characters, situations and objects in a 'true-to-life' manner. Emotions in Realism are more like those in a photograph. Rather than the stiff 'beautiful' conventional pictures that showed mostly people of importance the realists wanted to capture ordinary people and everyday activities as true to life as possible.

Impressionism

Impressionism began in France in the late 19th century when a group of young and talented artists decided to rebel against the traditional academic style of the Salon (a large annual art exhibition in France) and form a new style of painting all of their own. They reacted to the invention of the camera and moved away from painting people or landscapes realistically. The Impressionists wanted to capture a moment in time. Critics said that their work was merely "impressions" of reality and the name stuck.

They were more concerned with the light and colour of the moment than with the details of objects they were painting. They were very interested in the way light affects things and used bright and vivid colours to highlight an object's natural colour. They often painted outdoors (en plein air) and worked quickly before the light changed, this is shown in the use of thicker paints (this is called impasto), heavy and loose brush strokes and the lack of fine detail. They were less concerned with painting realistically and more interested in capturing the way light shines on objects and how colours change in the sun.