Railroad Bridge, Argenteuil

The image is provided by the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The text is adapted by ReadWorks.

Philadelphia Museum of Art: John G. Johnson Collection, 1917, cat. 1050

1874
Oil on canvas
21 x 28 inches (54.3 x 73.3 inches)
This painting is by the French artist Claude Monet. It shows the Seine River in a town just outside of Paris.

A small sailboat drifts along the water in this tranquil scene. Warm, golden light brightens the bridge’s white pillars and the boat’s sail. Their reflections in the water add pink, yellow, and orange hues to the blue of the river. Along the top of the bridge, a train chugs along. It lets out puffs of smoke that drift across the sky. A gentle wind pushes the boat across the calm river below.

Claude Monet enjoyed painting the outdoors directly from observation. His art shows the many colors he saw in the sky, water, plants, and trees. Look at this painting. You can see the deep greens, blues, and purples in the grassy riverbank, and the blues and yellows in the train’s smoke.
Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions on a piece of notebook paper. You do not need to write the questions.

1. List at least three different colors Claude Monet uses in this painting.

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2. According to the text, how did Claude Monet enjoy painting?

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3. Explain how Claude Monet used color to show the outdoor scene in this painting.

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