The Unknown Monet
Guided Sketchbook for Kids
Claude Monet (1840–1926) is most famous for his wonderful oil paintings, but he also did many drawings with pencil, chalk, and pastel. This exhibition celebrates these lesser-known drawings.

Monet loved to draw from the time he learned to hold a pencil. As a boy he covered his books with doodles and funny pictures of his teachers. When Monet was a teenager he taught himself how to draw “charged portraits” or caricatures—drawings of a person that exaggerate one or more of his or her features for comic effect—by copying other caricatures that were printed in the newspaper. Some of his caricatures were copied from the 1854 lithograph *Panthéon Nadar* by the French artist Nadar, which was printed in the newspaper *Le Figaro* in 1858, and is on view in the exhibition. This print offered Monet 249 people to draw!

Look at Monet’s caricatures in the first gallery. Which features are exaggerated? Do you think the subjects of these pictures liked them? Do they make you smile?

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Here is space for you to sketch two caricatures. **You can copy Monet's or you might try to draw a picture of someone you know.**

Hint: to draw a face in proper proportions, divide an oval into quarters. The eyes go on either side of the cross.
Monet often used his sketchbooks to make studies or rough drafts for later paintings. He thought of his sketchbooks as private spaces to experiment with visual ideas, like a journal or diary for pictures. (Visit the computer terminals in the next room to view over 300 pages from his actual sketchbooks.)

Find the black-chalk sketch *Figure of a Woman (Camille)* and the oil painting next to it, *Bazille and Camille (Study for “Luncheon on the Grass”)*. What differences can you see between the chalk drawing and the oil painting? What details do you see in the painting that weren’t in the sketch?

Look at the black-chalk drawing *The Luncheon on the Grass* on the same wall. This drawing was also a study for the painting *Luncheon on the Grass* (shown on this page). Compare the study for *Luncheon on the Grass* to the finished painting on this page. Can you find Bazille and Camille in both? What changes has Monet made in the placement of the figures? Do you think that they are the most important people in the picture? What makes you think so?
Look around the galleries and find a picture that you like. **Use the space on the left to sketch a first draft:** block out the composition and experiment with details. **Then draw a more careful version of your picture on the right,** building on what you learned from doing a first draft.
As you look at the pictures in this exhibition, you will see that Monet often drew or painted many versions of a particular scene. He was fascinated by how time of day, weather, season, and angle could change the way things looked. As Monet got older, he spent much of his time creating multiple images of the same subject. Three examples of his better-known series paintings (*Rouen Cathedral*, *Waterloo Bridge*, and *Charing Cross Bridge*) are on view in the last room of this exhibition.

Look at Monet’s pastels and paintings of bridges over the River Thames. How does he create the feeling of different weather conditions and times of day in these pictures? Do you see that the colors Monet chose make a difference to the overall look and feel of the picture?

**In the spaces on the next page sketch two copies of one of Monet's pictures.** Make careful notes about the colors Monet used so that you can recreate a good copy with one of your sketches when you color it in later. **Color the second sketch using totally different colors.** When you are finished, compare your two pictures. Which do you like better, yours or Monet's?
When you are finished looking at the pictures in the galleries, go back to the Information Desk in the courtyard to receive a complimentary box of crayons and colored pencils, courtesy of Faber-Castell.

When you get home, you can look at Monet's sketchbooks again by visiting www.clarkart.edu