Artistic Movements of the Late 19th Century

Cultural Ferment
- Long periods of peace
  o Late 1800’s
  o No major wars
- Better lives
  o Science and technology
  o White collar jobs
  o Leisure time

Artistic Movements
- Realism
  o Started 1850’s and 1860’s
  o Themes
    ▪ Focused on everyday life
      • Especially working class
      • Gritty detail
    ▪ Detail
      • In landscapes especially
  o Artists
    ▪ Gustave Courbet
      • Abandoned idealization
        o “painting is an essentially concrete art and can only consist in the representation of real and existing things,”
      • Burial at Ornans
        o Family being lowered into a grave
    ▪ Henri Bergson
      • Philosopher of irrationality
      • “Dynamic energy”
        o Something you can not define
    ▪ Henrik Ibsen
      • Modern drama
      • A Dolls House
        o Women’s lives
    ▪ Emile Zola
      • French Novelist
      • Ordinary people as he saw it
    ▪ Ernest Renan
      • “Progressive ideas”
      • Life of Jesus
        o Historical view of Christ
        o Problems with church
    ▪ Charles Baudelaire
      • Poet of modern life
        o Novelist
      • Urban life
- Rebelled against the bourgeois culture
  - Banned, controversial, sexually suggestive
- Barbizon Painters
  - Village near Paris
  - Paintings of village life
    - Peasants, harvests, etc.
  - Jean-Francois Millet
    - *The Gleaners*
- Impressionism
  - Rejected religious subjects and formal presentation
  - Initial impression
    - Fast glance, quick glance, fuzzy
  - Spontaneous
  - Lighter are brighter colors
  - *The Salon*
    - Large national gallery
    - Made because early Impressionists denied from established galleries
  - Artists
    - Edouard Manet
      - Controversial
        - Too realistic
          - Painted a prostitute
        - Made it difficult to get work
          - Gained fame late in life
    - Edgar Degas
      - Unattractive things in life
        - Preferred laundresses and ballet dancers
          - Over 1,500 pieces on dancers
      - Injured in Franco-Prussian War
    - Claude Monet
      - Worked with Renoir
      - Focused on Landscapes
        - Liked painting world around him
          - Grew up in Normandy
          - Paintings of family
      - Leisure and industry
    - Camille Pissarro
      - Often worked with Cezanne
      - Dean of Impressionist painters
      - Natural and cityscapes
    - Auguste Renoir
      - Many nudes and paintings of women
      - Rejected by the Salon
        - Formed *The Impressionist* society
          - With Monet
      - Very spontaneous
        - Painted whatever he felt like
    - Paul Cezanne
      - Inspired by nature and memory
        - Landscapes and cityscapes
• Still-life
  o Hints of realism
• Vincent van Gogh
  • Dutch
  • Experiments with color
  • Everyday situations