

# Unit 6: Early Christian/Byzantine & Early Middle Ages

Content Area: **Art**  
Course(s): **Art Experience, AP Art History**  
Time Period: **February**  
Length: **12 blocks**  
Status: **Published**

## Enduring Understandings

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The gradual decline of the Roman Empire and the collapse of its political administration overlapped the development of Christianity.

Christians worshipped in the privacy on their homes until Constantine issued the Edict of Milan in 313 AD.

Basilicas and Central planned Churches became the primary base for worship.

## Essential Questions

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What are the stylistic conventions of the Early Christian architecture?

How did the functionality of the floor plans of the church influence the overall design of the churches?

What is the role of art in religion?

Who were the art makes of this time?

What role did Islamic Art and Celtic Art have in the development of society?

What is an illuminated manuscript?

## Content

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Catacombs, Sarcophagi, Basilicas, narthex, Nave, aisle,

niche, aspe, transept, Atruim, gable, Martyium, Mosaic, Central planned, ambulatory, baptisteries, capital, squinches, mandoria, vellum, parchment, gilded metalwork, Mecca, Koran, Mosques, Anglo-Saxon Metalwork, Interlace, Rune stones, Cross stones, Illuminated Manuscripts, Old St. Peters, Santa Costanza, Galla Placidia, San Vitale, Court of Justinian, Hagia Sophia, Hosios Loukas, The Dome of the Rock, Arches of the Great Mosque, Sutton Hoo Purse,

## Skills

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Students will...

- identify the fall of Rome and the Rise of Christianity.
- identify the need for a house of worship and the utilitarian purposes of the first churches and how they developed artistically through the ages.
- learn the steps and processes of mosaic working.
- appreciate the individuality of the Islamic art of the time.
- note the metalwork and illuminated manuscripts of the Northern Middle Ages.

## Resources

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## Standards

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| VPA.1.1.12.A   | Dance                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| VPA.1.1.12.A.1 | Articulate understanding of choreographic structures or forms (e.g., palindrome, theme and variation, rondo, retrograde, inversion, narrative, and accumulation) in master works of dance.                                    |
| VPA.1.1.12.A.2 | Categorize the elements, principles, and choreographic structures of dance masterworks.                                                                                                                                       |
| VPA.1.3.12.D   | Visual Art                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| VPA.1.3.12.D.5 | Identify the styles and artistic processes used in the creation of culturally and historically diverse two- and three-dimensional artworks, and emulate those styles by creating an original body of work.                    |
| VPA.1.4.12.A   | Aesthetic Responses                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| VPA.1.4.12.A.4 | Evaluate how exposure to various cultures influences individual, emotional, intellectual, and kinesthetic responses to artwork.                                                                                               |
| VPA.1.4.12.B   | Critique Methodologies                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| VPA.1.4.12.B.2 | Evaluate how an artist's technical proficiency may affect the creation or presentation of a work of art, as well as how the context in which a work is performed or shown may impact perceptions of its significance/meaning. |
| VPA.1.4.12.B.3 | Determine the role of art and art-making in a global society by analyzing the influence of technology on the visual, performing, and multimedia arts for consumers, creators, and                                             |

performers around the world.