

Unit 02: Prehistoric Art and of the Ancient Near East

Content Area: **Fine Arts**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Marking Period 1**
Length: **5-6 sessions**
Status: **Published**

Brief Summary of Unit

Students will explore the earliest known art artworks and consider their origins and significance. They will become acquainted with the history and contributions these cultures have made to the development of art. They will begin to explore the practical and spiritual aspects of art from these cultures. In addition they will reflect upon issues concerning the definition of art.

Transfer

Essential Questions

- • How did the rise of civilization change the face of art in the ancient world?
- • Why do people create art, and how can we know?

Essential Understandings

- • People create art for many reasons – some of the basics are response to environment, spirituality, ritualism, political, story telling, and self expression.
- • The transition from nomadic to a settled agrarian civilization in the “Fertile Crescent” affected the ways that people created and used art.

Students Will Know

- • Basic vocabulary of sculpture (in-the-round, bas relief, high relief, open and closed forms, etc.), and sculptural techniques (additive, subtractive, modeling, carving, chiseling, etc.)
- • The 3 prehistoric ages: Paleolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic.
- • The 6 major civilizations and their chronological order: Sumerian, Akkadian, Neo-Sumerian, Babylonian, Assyrian, and Neo-Babylonian (useful acronym: SANBAN).
- • The geographical sites being explored.
- • The identification information of selected works of art from each culture/time period.

Students Will Be Skilled At

Evidence/Performance Tasks

- • Answer the essential questions.
- • Completion of homework and in classroom assignments derived from classroom activities (such as but not limited to: Readings, study guide activities and worksheets on Prehistoric Art and the Art of the Ancient Near East. 10 minute AP practice essay on the Victory Stele of Naram Sin, with rubric.)
- • Ongoing notes, sketches, handouts, and reflections compiled in notebooks.
- • Participation in classroom activities such as: class discussion, Q and A sessions, cooperative group projects, role-playing, critique sessions, etc.
- • Self and teacher assessment using teacher generated rubric.
- • Unit quiz: Prehistoric Art and the Art of the Ancient Near East

Learning Plan

- • Homework debriefing o Class activity: 10 minute AP practice essay on the Victory Stele of Naram Sin o In class evaluation of essay using College Board rubric and scored sample essays.
- • Homework debriefing and presentation “Art used to document, ritualize, and empower authority.” o Handouts related to topic of discussion. o Class activity: such as small group exploration and presentations (application of the 3 S’s) o Homework reading and study guide activity related to next class period topic.
- • Homework debriefing and presentation: “Sacred space and religious ritual: monument, spirit, and site.” o Class discussion oTeacher presentation of additional information on prehistoric art. o Homework reading on the Art of the Prehistoric Art, CD study guide activity with teacher prepared worksheet (material for next day)
- • Homework debriefing and presentation: “Stonehenge and the Anishinabe petroforms in Manitoba, Canada.” o Class activity: such as paring and sharing activity “Interpretations and Conjecture.” o Class discussion oTeacher presentation of additional information on prehistoric art. o Homework reading on the Art of the Ancient Near East, CD study guide activity with teacher prepared worksheet (material for next day)
- • Homework reading on Prehistoric Art and CD study guide assignment (material for next day)
- • Preview the essential questions and connect to learning throughout the unit.
- • Unit quiz: Prehistoric Art and the Art of the Ancient Near East

Materials

Suggested Strategies for Modifications

- • additional time on task
- • alternative outcome options

- • assessment based on individual development in the area of study
- • audio tape of instruction
- • cooperative learning groups
- • handouts of notes, procedures, processes, diagrams, etc.
- • images and visual aids
- • one-to-one instruction and assistance
- • preferential seating
- • reading material modified to student level
- • revised techniques, use of tools and media in hands-on activity
- • study partners
- • testing materials appropriate to student level