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

Art History Part 1 will provide students with an introduction to college coursework in art history. In this course, students will examine major forms of artistic expression from Ancient to Medieval times as well as those of Non-European cultures. Their explorations will enable them to develop an understanding and knowledge of architecture, sculpture, painting, and other art forms within diverse historical and cultural contexts. It will also provide an opportunity for Cranford High School students to explore an area that is only cursorily explored through other curricula in more depth. They will learn to look at works of art critically, with intelligence and sensitivity, and to analyze what they see. Students may continue with the coursework by electing to take Art History Part 2.

No prior experience in art history or fine art is required. Students who are successful and enjoy other courses in the humanities, such as history and literature, or in any of the arts, are strongly encouraged to enroll. While the course does not assume prior training or seek primarily to identify students who will major in art history in college, it does require a high degree of commitment to academic work and to the purposes of a program designed to meet college standards.

In this unit, students will explore the earliest known 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.

Revision Date: July 2024 - Samantha Berk.

Essential Questions/Enduring Understandings

Why do people create art, and how can we know?

How did the rise of civilization change the face of art in the ancient world?

Prehistoric Art reflects the early human desire to express beliefs, experiences, and rituals, showcasing the origins of creativity and communication through symbolic forms.

The art of the Ancient Near East illustrates the development of complex societies and the role of art in asserting power, spirituality, and cultural continuity.

Through artmaking, people make meaning by investigating and developing awareness of perceptions, knowledge and experiences.

How does engaging in creating art enrich people's lives? How does making art attune people to their surroundings? How do people contribute to awareness and understanding of their lives and the lives of their communities through artmaking?

People develop ideas and understandings of society, culture and history through their interactions with and analysis of art.

How does art help us understand the lives of people of different times, places and cultures? How is art used to impact the views of a society? How does art preserve aspects of life?

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.

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 pairing 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

Google Slide Deck, Google classroom, textbooks, handouts, Edpuzzles, quizlet, kahoot, videos, art reproductions

Suggested Strategies for Modifications

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1whirPHhSur-WY5EGTzfLHayWczAu0O9Svu-0ggxyXFY/edit#gid=1426178898