Unit 06: Early Christian and Byzantine Art and Architecture

Content Area: **Fine Arts**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Marking Period 2**
Length: **6-8 Classs sessions**
Status: **Published**

Brief Summary of Unit

Students will explore art and architecture as an expression of spirituality in the early Christian and Byzantine eras. They will understand the history and contributions to the development of art and architecture that came out of these eras. They will also understand the origins of the religious iconography used during these eras.

Standards

ELD standards:https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wdmsiGOdCHlrjU-WPvAtENnEgi0EStZXo0uiFYv1Nu4/edit

1.5.12adv.Cr	Creating
1.5.12adv.Cr1	Generating and conceptualizing ideas.
1.5.12adv.Cr1a	Visualize and generate art and design that can affect social change.
1.5.12adv.Cr1b	Choose from a range of materials and methods of traditional and contemporary artistic practices, following or breaking established conventions, to plan the making of multiple works of art and design based on a theme, idea or concept.
1.5.12adv.Cr2	Organizing and developing ideas.
1.5.12adv.Cr2a	Experiment, plan and make multiple works of art and design that explore a personally meaningful theme, idea, or concept.
1.5.12adv.Cr2b	Demonstrate understanding of the importance of balancing freedom and responsibility in the use of images, materials, tools and equipment in the creation and circulation of creative work.
1.5.12adv.Cr2c	Demonstrate in works of art or design how visual and material culture defines, shapes, enhances, inhibits, and/or empowers people's lives.
1.5.12adv.Cr3	Refining and completing products.
1.5.12adv.Cr3a	Reflect on, re-engage, revise and refine works of art or design considering relevant traditional and contemporary criteria as well as personal artistic vision.
1.5.12adv.Pr	Presenting
1.5.12adv.Pr4	Selecting, analyzing, and interpreting work.
1.5.12adv.Pr4a	Critique, justify and present choices in the process of analyzing, selecting, curating, and presenting artwork for a specific exhibit or event.
1.5.12adv.Pr5	Developing and refining techniques and models or steps needed to create products.
1.5.12adv.Pr5a	Investigate, compare and contrast methods for preserving and protecting art.
1.5.12adv.Pr6	Conveying meaning through art.
1.5.12adv.Pr6a	Curate a collection of objects, artifacts or artwork to impact the viewer's understanding of

	social, cultural and/or political experiences.
1.5.12adv.Re	Responding
1.5.12adv.Re7	Perceiving and analyzing products.
1.5.12adv.Re7a	Analyze how responses to art develop over time based on knowledge of and experience with art and life.
1.5.12adv.Re7b	Determine the commonalities within a group of artists or visual arts attributed to a particular type of art, timeframe, or culture.
1.5.12adv.Re8	Interpreting intent and meaning.
1.5.12adv.Re8a	Analyze differing interpretations of an artwork or collection of works in order to select and defend a plausible critical analysis.
1.5.12adv.Re9	Applying criteria to evaluate products.
1.5.12adv.Re9a	Construct evaluations of a work of art or collection of works based on differing sets of criteria.
1.5.12adv.Cn	Connecting
1.5.12adv.Cn10	Synthesizing and relating knowledge and personal experiences to create products.
1.5.12adv.Cn10a	Synthesize knowledge of social, cultural, historical, and personal life with artmaking approaches to create meaningful works of art or design.
1.5.12adv.Cn11	Relating artistic ideas and works within societal, cultural and historical contexts to deepen understanding.
1.5.12adv.Cn11a	Assess the impact of an artist or a group of artists on the beliefs, values and behaviors of a society.
1.5.12adv.Cn11b	Assess the impact of an artist or group of artists on global issues, including climate change.

Transfer

Essential Questions

- In what ways did the design of early Christian and Byzantine religious architecture serve the faithful and evangelize to outsiders?
- In what ways was early Christian art affected by the various cultures and religions of the era?
- What significant innovations early Christians and Byzantines make in art and architecture?
- Why are the images of humans in early Christian and Byzantine so primitive in comparison to those of earlier cultures?

Essential Understandings

- Early Christian and Byzantine architecture was designed to enhance the spiritual experience of the worshiper and to glorify and publicize the new religion.
- Early Christian art was in part an evangelical tool that incorporated iconography of pagan sects.
- Religious beliefs forced a shift from naturalism to symbolic representations of the human form in art.

Students Will Know

- Basic vocabulary of early Christian, and Byzantine art and architecture (basilica, nave, apse, pendent, domed basilica, mosaic, icons and iconoclasm, monastery, etc.)
- Major art materials and mediums used by the culture and/or during the time period.
- The basic history of the time period being explored.
- The characteristics unique to each structure.
- The geographical sites being explored.
- The identification information of selected works of art from the culture/time period.

Students Will Be Skilled At

Evidence/Performance Tasks

- Answer the essential questions.
- Completion of homework and in class assignments derived from classroom activities (such as but not limited to: Readings, study guide activities and worksheets on Early Christian and Byzantine Art and Architecture. Written Assignment: How can architecture enhance worship? List the major structural and ornamental elements of St. Marks (Venice). Beneath your list, relate how the elements help the building function as a sacred space. 10 minute AP essay writing.)
- 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.
- Quiz: Early Christian and Byzantine Art and Architecture
- Self and teacher assessment using teacher generated rubric.

Learning Plan

- Byzantine Art in Ravenna, Constantinople, and Venice: the rule of Justinian." o Handouts related to topic of discussion. o Discussion o Homework reading and study guide activity related to next class period topic.
- Homework debriefing and presentation "The evolution of the Roman Basilica: St. Peter's Basilica; the shift from naturalism to symbolism in mosaic and ivory carving." o Handouts related to topic of discussion. o Homework reading and study guide activity related to next class period topic.
- Homework debriefing and presentation "The transformation of the figure from naturalism to symbolic representation; the significance of architectural site and belief reflected in structure and ornament." o Handouts related to topic of discussion. o Discussion and Activity o Homework reading and study guide activity related to next class period topic
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- Preview the essential questions and connect to learning throughout the unit.

- Unit Quiz
- Written Assignment: Written Assignment: How can architecture enhance worship? List the major structural and ornamental elements of St. Marks (Venice). Beneath your list, relate how the elements help the building function as a sacred space.

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
- 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