

# Unit 4: History/Culture – Art’s Role in History and Culture

Content Area: **Fine Arts**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Marking Period 1**  
Length: **34 Weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Brief Summary of Unit

---

Students will explore how art often reflects the time and culture it was created in and how over time how artists have influenced each other. They will be introduced to common themes and characteristics of specific time periods and learn about why they were significant.

Art teachers at the elementary level design their own unique lesson plans in order to incorporate the essential questions provided in this unit. The order in which this information is presented is dependent upon the variables specific to each elementary school community.

## Standards

---

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

VA.K-2.1.5.2.Cr1a	Engage in individual and collaborative exploration of materials and ideas through multiple approaches, from imaginative play to brainstorming, to solve art and design problems.
VA.K-2.1.5.2.Cr1b	Engage in individual and collaborative art making through observation and investigation of the world, and in response to personal interests and curiosity.
VA.K-2.1.5.2.Cr2a	Through experimentation, build skills and knowledge of materials and tools through various approaches to art making.
VA.K-2.1.5.2.Cr2b	Demonstrate safe procedures for using and cleaning art tools, equipment and studio spaces.
VA.K-2.1.5.2.Cr2c	Create art that represents natural and constructed environments. Identify and classify uses of everyday objects through drawings, diagrams, sculptures or other visual means including repurposing objects to make something new.
VA.K-2.1.5.2.Cr3a	Explain the process of making art, using art vocabulary. Discuss and reflect with peers about choices made while creating art.
VA.K-2.1.5.2.Pr4a	Select artwork for display, and explain why some work, objects and artifacts are valued over others. Categorize artwork based on a theme or concept for an exhibit.
VA.K-2.1.5.2.Pr5a	Explain the purpose of a portfolio or collection. Ask and answer questions regarding preparing artwork for presentation or preservation.
VA.K-2.1.5.2.Pr6a	Explain what an art museum is and identify the roles and responsibilities of the people who work in and visit museums and exhibit spaces. Analyze how art exhibits inside and outside of schools (such as museums, galleries, virtual spaces, and other venues) contribute to communities.
VA.K-2.1.5.2.Re7a	Identify works of art based on personal connections and experiences. Describe the

	aesthetic characteristics within both the natural and constructed world.
VA.K-2.1.5.2.Re7b	Describe, compare and categorize visual artworks based on subject matter and expressive properties.
VA.K-2.1.5.2.Re8a	Categorize and describe works of art, by identifying subject matter, details, mood, and formal characteristics.
VA.K-2.1.5.2.Re9a	Use art vocabulary to explain preferences in selecting and classifying artwork.
VA.K-2.1.5.2.Cn10a	Create art that tells a story or describes life events in home, school and community.
VA.K-2.1.5.2.Cn11a	Compare, contrast and describe why people from different places and times make art.
VA.K-2.1.5.2.Cn11b	Describe why people from different places and times make art about different issues, including climate change.
TECH.9.4.12.CI.1	Demonstrate the ability to reflect, analyze, and use creative skills and ideas (e.g., 1.1.12prof.CR3a).
TECH.9.4.12.CI.2	Identify career pathways that highlight personal talents, skills, and abilities (e.g., 1.4.12prof.CR2b, 2.2.12.LF.8).
TECH.9.4.12.CI.3	Investigate new challenges and opportunities for personal growth, advancement, and transition (e.g., 2.1.12.PGD.1).

## Transfer

---

- • Identify different cultures based upon the art created
- • Make connections between art and the culture it was derived from
- • Recognize that art is present in all cultures throughout history
- • Understand the function and purpose of art making throughout history.

## Essential Questions

---

- • How can we learn to understand art?
- • How can we talk about art?
- • What is art?
- • Where do artists get their ideas?
- • Why is art important?

## Essential Understandings

---

- • Common themes found in works of art can be identified over the course of history.
- • These themes are reflections of societal values and beliefs.

## Students Will Know

---

- • Begin to identify specific cultural styles and subject matters in various areas of art (i.e. Native American totem poles, African masks).



group discussions, or in small groups and pairs.

## **Materials**

---

## **Suggested Strategies for Modifications**

---

- • Auditory re-phrasing to assist students.
- • Examples of successful projects to model.
- • Hands on activities.
- • Individualized instruction where needed.
- • Smartboard projector.
- • Use of Visual Aids such as photographs, and presentation tools.
- • Working in small groups.