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Art — Ancient

Art — Year 1

Levels:

L — 1st through 4th

M — 5th through 8th

Course Description: Students will study art throughout history from ancient cave paintings through the renaissance. They will study art of various cultures through history including Egypt, China, India, Greece, Rome, Japan and Viking. Students will try to imitate artwork while learning about line, color, motion and perspective.

Materials:

- [Basic Supplies](#)
- [Art, Year 1, Level L](#)
- [Art, Year 1, Level M](#)

Cave Paintings

Week 1

1. Take this [tour](#) through a cave in [France](#). Any time you want you can click on an “explore” button that pops up. Then just click on “Back to the Cave” to continue. (If the link isn’t working, here’s a [video of the tour](#). Be on the lookout for drawings on the cave walls.)

2. Be on the lookout this week. Find a rock this week that you could paint on. Also, collect a twig or something to use as a brush as well as flowers, berries, mud...to use as paint.

Week 2

1. Make a “cave painting” on your rock. Use only the natural supplies you found this week. Paint something that someone long ago could have painted. No cars!

Week 3

1. Look at and describe in as much detail as you can these three pictures. [Hands](#) [Hunt](#) [Oxen](#)
2. On paper create one of these drawings as best you can. See suggestions below.
 - Trace your hand and make the hand picture.
 - Draw an ox. Here is a [how to draw an ox](#) page.
 - Draw a horse and man for hunt scene. Here is an advanced [how to draw a horse](#) page.

Egyptian Art

Week 4

1. Read about and look at [Egyptian paintings](#) and [carvings](#).
2. Draw an Egyptian like in [this painting](#).

Week 5

1. Read about [Egyptian sculptures](#).
2. [Sculpt](#). Choose something from the time, pyramid, King Tut, Sphinx... You don't have to use “real” modeling clay. You can use playdough, salt dough, or what I call icing dough (half butter/half flour).

Ancient China

Week 6 (Materials for L: newspaper or junk mail, screen or I think you could use a cheese cloth)

L

1. [Make paper](#). (The Chinese invented paper making. They used the inner bark of a mulberry tree and bamboo fibers.)
2. You can add in food coloring or go natural and add pieces of leaves and flowers and color with berries.

M

1. Try [Chinese paper cutting](#). Click on the third (last) video. Follow the directions. To make a square sheet of paper, fold down the top corner of a piece of paper to line up with the far side

to make a triangle. Cut off the bottom rectangle that's exposed. Now you have a square to begin with.

Mayans

Week 7

L

1. Try to draw a [Mayan flower design](#). You could try the monkey too, though I think it looks like a butterfly.

M

1. Try to draw the [Mayan diamond design](#).

Week 8 (sculpting again– you might want a cup of salt on hand, and optional: tempra paint)

L/M

1. Make a clay pot like the Mayans.
2. Here is a [salt dough](#) recipe (but you can use playdough or whatever kind of clay you like.)
3. Here is how they [make their pots](#).
4. Here is a little more [direction](#) if you need it.
5. It's up to you and what you have available if you want to try and paint yours. You have to let it dry several days first.

Technique

Week 9

L

1. Learn about [line](#). Make sure you watch, find and create.

M

1. Learn about [line](#). Make sure you watch, find and create.
2. Be on the look out for a soft (carve-able) stone.

Indus Valley

Week 10 (M: stone, exacto knife, candle, frying pan–parent/older child assistance needed; L: potato, ink pad)

L

1. Make a [seal like those in the Indus Valley](#).
2. Cut a potato in half. Carve markings into the flat side.
3. Use ink and stamp your potato into it and onto paper.

M

1. Carve markings into your stone.
2. Drip candle wax and press your carving into it. My thought would be to heat a frying pan and then drip wax into it to keep it warm until you have enough to press.

Greek Art

Week 11

L

1. Try this [challenge](#). You will see different pieces of Greek art and learn what part they played in the home.

M

1. Use the links to answer these questions about Greek art.
 - What [type of materials](#) did the Greeks use in their sculpture?
 - What shape is a [Corinthian Temple](#)?
 - What is the common colors of the [Greek Vase Paintings](#)?
 - Describe the difference between the [Archaic and Hellenistic Sculpture](#). (questions [from](#))

Week 12

L

1. Choose a craft. [Medusa](#) (toilet paper roll) [Pottery](#) (paper plate, paint, pipe cleaners) [Trojan Horse](#) (paper, card board — like cereal box) [Scratch Vase](#) scratch off the black crayon...
2. Here's [the story of Medusa](#) if you are choosing her for your craft you should know her myth (tall tale) about her.

M

1. Use the pictures to answer these questions about Greek art.
 - Describe the difference between [Egyptian](#) and [Greek Temples](#) in their appearance.
 - Why do you think the [Greeks choose the subjects](#) (i.e. the objects of painting/sculpture) they did for their painting/sculptures?
 - How [realistic or abstract](#) are the sculptures of the Greeks? (Move your mouse over the thumbnails to enlarge; you can also move the timeline to see more.)
 - What do you think the artist trying to portray about the Ancient Greek Culture in their sculpture? (questions [from](#))

Week 13

L

1. Draw, paint or sculpt the [three types of Greek columns](#).

2. You should have read about these in your history lesson today.

M

1. Take a look at this [Greek art](#).
2. Your history lesson can be the rest of your art lesson today. If you are writing the story, add a picture. If you are acting it out, add a background or costume or prop that you make for your art lesson today.

Color

Week 14

L

1. Learn about [primary and secondary colors](#). Make sure you watch, find and create.

M

1. Learn about [warm and cool colors](#). Make sure you watch, find and create.

Romans

Week 15

L/M

1. Look at [Roman mosaics](#). Click on the arrow to look through all of them.
2. Experiment with making a [Roman mosaic online](#). (Next week we'll do it with paper. Use the online one to try out your ideas.)
3. Follow the directions to copy the letter code in the box at the bottom. Paste it into a document and save it as mosaic in the folder with your name on it.

Week 16

L/M

1. Make a paper mosaic.
2. Cut out little paper squares. Arrange them on paper in a shape or pattern and glue them down.
3. Give this to a parent to put in your portfolio. (Or, if you like your online one better, you could print it out.)

Week 17

L/M

1. Look at and read about [Roman art](#).

Week 18

L/M

1. Look at these [Roman theater masks](#). Click on older to see more. You can make yours out of paper plates.

Week 19

L/M

1. Look at some early [Christian artwork](#).
2. Click on the [different pages](#).
3. Remember, that truly early Christians did not meet in big church buildings. They met inside. Paul preached in homes or outside. Any fancy old church buildings you see in pictures come after Christianity stops being persecuted. When Christianity was very new and persecuted, there is no artwork saved from then. However, scroll down to the very last picture on this page and look at the [drawing](#) preserved on the ground and read the paragraph next to it.

Week 20

L

1. Look at these examples of Viking art. What three distinct types of materials were used in these examples?
 - [one](#)
 - [two](#)
 - [three](#)

M

1. Look at these examples of Viking art. What three distinct types of materials were used in these examples?
 - [one](#)
 - [two](#)
 - [three](#) Read just the introduction to Viking art.

Movement

Week 21

L/M

1. Look at these paintings. They are still, but they show movement. Where do you see motion in the pictures? Can you see any of the things the artists did to show movement in their paintings?

- [one](#)
- [two](#)
- [three](#)
- [four](#)
- [five](#)

Week 22

L

1. Look at these [heraldic lions](#).
2. These lions were symbols used on shields to represent a family name. Other symbols and colors were used as well.

M

1. Read about [animals in art](#) in the Middle Ages.
2. View the slideshow.
3. Find an example in the slideshow of something the article talks about. Show it to someone and explain it to them.

Week 23

L

1. Look at these [stone carvings](#). Can you tell what they are depicting?
2. Click on the number 4. What can you tell about the sculpture?
3. What theme is in this Medieval art? (answer: Christianity, there is a picture of feeding the poor, foot washing, the man is holding a cross)

M

1. View this [slideshow of Medieval art](#).
2. What materials are used in these?
3. What theme is present in most of them? (answer: cross/religion)

Week 24

L/M

1. Writings from the middle ages were often done with a flourish! They were called “illuminated manuscripts.” Fancy pictures were added in gold or silver. Beginning letters were written with color and drawings. [Take a look at some](#) and then write the first letter of your name in this style. It doesn’t have to be as intricate as some of these. Do your best. Write the letter and then color it, draw around it. Make it your special letter!
2. You can give this to a parent to add to your portfolio.

Week 25

L/M

1. Remember looking at movement in paintings? Here is a lesson in movement in art. Make sure you [watch, find and create](#).

Week 26 (Materials for art: technically, 12 x 18 in. white paper, watercolors, 2 popsicle sticks — but I think you can use regular paper, any kind of drawing material and any kind of stiff material for a stick, you could even fold paper over a bunch of times to make it stiff)

L/M

1. Make a [Japanese fan](#). You don’t have to use watercolor or popsicle sticks. You can use regular size paper and draw a nature scene and use sticks or cardboard or whatever idea you have.

Week 27

L/M

1. This is something a little different. [Draw your hand in 3D](#).
2. Learn to [draw 3D shapes](#).
3. And, if you are really interested, you can [learn more here](#).

Week 28

L

1. Read about [Botticelli](#) and look carefully at his artwork.
2. Pick two pictures and make as many observations as you can about it.

M

1. Watch this video about art in the [renaissance](#).
2. The video repeatedly brings up how the renaissance was possible because of a break from the church. What was the church in the dark ages? What did Christianity look like in the dark ages? Nothing like what Christianity looked like in the Bible! Popes became like kings and collected taxes to build themselves magnificent buildings. It was in many ways the opposite of true Christianity. If people had always followed Christ as the Bible teaches, the world would have been full of new truth, new and beautiful music and art and true philosophical thought that would better mankind.

Week 29

L

1. Read about [Raphael](#).
2. Examine the first painting carefully. Make as many observations as you can. Point out all of the details in the painting. What do you see when you look at color? line? shadows?

M

1. Read about [Raphael](#) and examine his artwork.
2. Read about [Botticelli](#) and look carefully at his artwork.
3. Choose one painting from each and write about each, pointing out the observations you have made about it.

Week 30

L

1. Do this lesson on [perspective](#). Leonardo DaVinci and other renaissance artists learned how to use perspective to make their drawings and paintings realistic.

M

1. Do this drawing lesson on [perspective](#). Leonardo DaVinci and other renaissance artists learned how to use perspective to make their drawings and paintings realistic. You can skip steps 4 and 5.

Week 31

L

1. Do this [optical illusion](#) with perspective. Stop after the three men illusion.
2. Draw the road as described. You can cut out two tree shapes from any kind of paper. Can you make the illusion work?

M

1. Read this page on [perspective](#).
2. Try at least one of the drawings on the page.

Week 32

L

1. Choose something to [draw](#). Follow the steps. Don't give up. Do your best.

M

1. How to draw, [lesson 1](#)

Week 33

L

1. Choose something to [draw](#). Follow the steps. Don't give up. Do your best.

M

1. How to draw, [lesson 2](#)

Week 34

L

1. Choose something to [draw](#). Follow the steps. Don't give up. Do your best.

M

1. How to draw, [lesson 3](#)

Week 35

L

1. Choose something to [draw](#). Follow the steps. Don't give up. Do your best.

M

1. Practice with [line and shape](#).

Week 36

L

1. Choose something to [draw](#). Follow the steps. Don't give up. Do your best.

M

1. Practice with [shape](#).