

Art Through the Ages Information Sheet

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| Renaissance Artists include: Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael and Michelangelo | <p>This artistic movement began in the 1400s and the word Renaissance means 'rebirth'. The Renaissance began in Italy but spread to different parts of Europe including France, Spain, England, Poland, Germany and the Netherlands.</p> <p>Artists wanted to create realistic paintings and sculpture like the ancient Greeks and Romans therefore the Renaissance was the rebirth of this style.</p> <p>Renaissance artists were the first to study perspective and use it in their art. They also studied the human body and how it worked so that paintings of people looked as realistic and as natural as possible.</p> |
| Baroque Artists include: Rembrandt and Ribera | <p>The Baroque style continued where the Renaissance left off, it began in the late 1500s. At this time, the Catholic Church was spreading their beliefs to others because the Protestants were working hard to do the same. Not everyone could read, but they could understand pictures, so the church wanted plenty of paintings of biblical scenes that anyone could understand.</p> <p>Renaissance painters also created a lot of portraits and religious paintings but to make their biblical scenes familiar to people, Baroque artists used real people as models for their religious figures. Baroque artists wanted to show life the way it really is was.</p> <p>Baroque painters are known for painting scenes which took place in bright light against dark backgrounds.</p> |
| Impressionism Artists include: Degas, Monet, Van Gogh | <p>Impressionism is a style of painting that began in France in the 1800s. Unlike artists before them, the Impressionists painted most of their paintings outdoors. Oceans, fields and trees were popular subjects.</p> <p>When Impressionists painted people, they painted everyday people rather than religious figures or royalty.</p> <p>Impressionists began to place more importance on the background of the painting, which until now, hadn't been considered as important.</p> <p>The style was called Impressionism because the artists were not painting an exact realistic picture. They used many short brush strokes, applying paint thickly, to create the impression of a subject. The paint on his canvases is often so thick that it looks 3D. The further back you stand, the more you see the whole picture rather than a collection of thick paint blobs.</p> |
| Art Nouveau Artists include: Klimt | <p>The Art Nouveau style was not only applied to painting and sculpture but also to architecture, jewellery, furniture and all types of materials used for design both indoors and outdoors.</p> |
| Fauvism Artists include: Matisse | <p>Colour was the most important aspect of a fauvist painting, and were often exaggerated more than the subject.</p> |
| Cubism Artists include: Picasso | <p>Cubism began in France. Pablo Picasso began painting figures that were made up of 3D shapes. Cubists wanted to show the most important parts of the things they painted or all the sides of an object in the same picture.</p> |
| Surrealism Artists include: Klee and Dali | <p>The distaste for World War I contributed towards the creation of the Surrealist movement. Surrealists wanted to free their minds of thought and didn't want their work to make sense. Many Surrealist paintings look like dreams or nightmares.</p> |

Now complete the Art Through the Ages Quiz to test your understanding.
Extension Task - Research examples of work from each period.