

# Find a Study Guide

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Click on the section title that you would like to open

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# Course Vocabulary

# Art in World Cultures - Course Vocabulary

## Abstract

Artwork in which the object or scene is not easily identified.

## Age of enlightenment

An intellectual movement that sought to emphasize reason and science over tradition.

## Approximate symmetry

When the parts of an artwork are not identical, but balance has still occurred in the artwork.

## Apse

A semicircular recess that has a vault or half dome as its ceiling.

## Archaic style

Some of the first attempts by ancient Greeks to carve stone sculptures; the results are similar to some of the statues that we find from ancient Egypt in their rigid frontal stances.

## Arches

Structures used to span spaces and support the weight above them.

## Art

"The expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting or sculpture, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power."

## Art appraisers

Determine the approximate value of artwork.

## Art consultants

Work with businesses, individuals, and organizations to find them pieces of art that meet their needs.

## Art critique

An evaluation of an artwork.

## Art curators

May work for museums, galleries, businesses, or private individuals that have collections of art; they may be involved with the creation, preservation, interpretation, display, and other aspects of a collection.

## Art movements

Refer to changes in art style or particular ideas that define the work of a group of artists at a certain time.

Art nouveau

International movement between 1890 and 1910 that was characterized by curves.

Art periods

Are typically longer lasting than art movements and they are generally not intentional; they generally develop over time in response to factors such as the politics, social conditions, and cultures present at a certain point in time.

Asymmetrical balance

Informal balance; happens when the visual weight in the artwork is not evenly distributed.

Aztec civilization

Civilization that dominated many areas of Central America from the 1300s to the 1500s, when the Spanish arrived.

Balance

The distribution of aspects such as color, visual weight, space, texture, and so on within the artwork.

Bark paintings

Inner strips of tree bark that are painted or decorated.

Baroque

"Irregular, contorted, grotesque." At the time, people used this term to point out the perceived excesses of detail, ornamentation, and elaboration in the artwork.

Barrel vault

A curved roof or ceiling; a series of arches placed one in front of another to create a long opening with a curved ceiling to walk under.

Basilica

Building that has a central nave and an apse at one or both ends.

Bisj pole

Carved from a single piece of wood, it depicts multiple humans standing on top of each other.

Bradshaws

Rock paintings in western Australia named for the man who rediscovered them.

Brunelleschi

Important Renaissance architect.

Bubalus period

The earliest period of rock engraving; it is characterized by.

Byzantine art

The art of the Eastern Roman Empire from the period of about 330 CE to 1453 CE.

Camel period

The latest rock engraving period in Africa; it is characterized by.

Cattle period

Rock-engraving period showing animals that were domesticated as well as some wild animals.

Cave of swimmers

Located in the Libyan Sahara Desert, the name of the cave came from the paintings inside which seem to show humans swimming.

Cave paintings

Some of the oldest pieces of art that are known to us; the earliest examples have been found in Europe and are believed to be up to 40,000 years old.

Classical style

Style of Greek sculpture characterized by more natural poses and more skillful depictions of the human form.

Claude Monet

The most consistent artist in using Impressionist techniques and ideals over the course of his lifetime. He helped cofound this movement.

Codices

Books created by the Mayans and Aztecs.

Columns

Pillars or large, round, vertical structures that help support the weight of the structure overhead.

Commission

One person or organization hires and pays for another person to create a piece of art.

Contemporary art

Art that is happening in the present time, and it includes postmodern art.

Corinthian order

Style of ancient Greek architecture that grew out of Ionic order and has many characteristics in common with Ionic order; however, the capitals of the columns are much more ornate and elaborate than those in Ionic order.

Cromlech

A row of menhirs.

Cubism

Considered one of the most influential art movements in the 20th century; Picasso was a cofounder and leader in the movement. The art featured objects that were reduced to shapes and then put back together in abstract ways.

David

Created between 1501 and 1504, this 17-foot-tall marble sculpture was first intended to be placed on the roof of the Cathedral of Florence.

Decorative arts

Are works that combine not only an artistic sense but also a functional one.

Deffufa

A mud-brick structure used for religious structures.

Dolmans

Another term for portal tombs, such as those found in the Korean Peninsula.

Domes

Architectural features that resemble the upper half of a sphere or circle; allow for the construction of vaulted ceilings without having to use crossbeams.

Dominance

Relates to which objects or parts of an artwork are given emphasis in the composition.

Dominant area

The area that captures our eyes when we look at the artwork and is given the greatest amount of emphasis.

Donatello

Regarded by art historians as the greatest sculptor of the Early Renaissance period.

Doric order

Style of ancient Greek architecture that started on the mainland of Greece sometime before 600 BCE; the main characteristic is the capital or top of the column, consisting of a rounded echinus at the top of the column joined to a square called the abacus.

### Drawing

Involves moving a tool across a dry surface to create marks on that surface.

### Dreamtime

Aboriginal cultures believed the world was created by ancestral totemic spirits during this period.

### Early christian art

Works produced by and for Christians during the first five centuries of the Common Era.

### Edouard manet

One of the artists who bridges both Realism and Impressionism.

### Edvard Munch

A Norwegian painter known for his visual expression of human emotion in his works.

### Effigy mounds

Man-made mounds of earth often created in the shapes of animals.

### Elements of art

The building blocks of visual art.

### Face masks

Masks that cover part or all of the face.

### Finger flutings

Marks left by fingers in soft stone.

### Flying buttresses

Wall supports that have a masonry block at the ground and an arch that connects the block to the wall.

### Forms

Art elements that are three-dimensional, with height, width, and depth.

### Francesco Borromini

One of the leading Baroque architects in Italy. He was a rival of Bernini.

### Francisco Goya

Spanish painter who was the premiere Romantic artist.

### Gargoyles

Stone carvings designed to transfer rainwater away from the roof so that the water doesn't run down the walls and create damage.



### Geoglyphs

Large designs that are created on the ground with objects like stones, trees, gravel, or other durable landscape elements.

### Geometric shapes

Examples include rectangles, squares, triangles, cubes, cones, and circles.

### Gianlorenzo Bernini

Baroque sculptor and architect, known for his sculpture of David.

### Glyphs

Represent words and syllables in the Mayan language.

### Gothic art

Began in France in the early 12th century, with the rebuilding of the Abbey Church of St. Denis between 1137 and 1144.

### Great zimbabwe

This site was the capital for the Shona kingdom and was a great example of African architecture.

### Harmony

The idea that all parts of an artwork should work together and complement each other.

### Hatching

A technique that creates shadows or shading with close parallel lines.

### Headdress masks

Masks that are worn on top of the head like a hat.

### Hellenistic style

Ancient Greek style of sculpture that features naturalistic human forms; common people, animals, and domestic scenes were included in sculptures and reliefs.

### Helmet masks

Masks that fit over the head and are often carved from a single tree trunk. The inside of the trunk is hollowed out to fit over a person's head, and openings are cut for the person's eyes, nose, and mouth.

### Horse period

Rock-engraving period that has three phases, all characterized by the engravings of horses and horse-related material.

### Hos

A charm that had an abstract human form and the legs were made from the spines of stingrays.

Hue

Another name for what we think of as color, such as red, blue, yellow, green, purple, and so on.

Icon

Religious artwork of Christ, the Virgin Mary, or a saint that was used for honoring that figure.

Impressionism

Began in the 1870s and was characterized by colored shadows, use of light, and thick paint.

Inca empire

Developed in modern-day Peru in South America in the 13th century and lasted until the Spanish conquests in the 1500s.

Insular art

Art produced in Great Britain and Ireland from 300 to 900 CE; generally shows the intersection of Germanic art with Celtic art.

Intensity

Saturation; refers to how bright or dull a color is.

Ionic order

Ancient Greek style of architecture that originated in Eastern Greece and featured a more ornate column and capital than the Doric order.

Jan Van Eyck

Flemish painter known as "the father of the oil painting."

John Singleton Copley

American-born artist who painted not only portraits of important colonial figures but also paintings in the tradition of the "history painting."

Joseph Nicéphore Niépce

He created the first permanent photograph in 1826.

Ka

Spirit.

Lancet arches

Pointed arches over long openings. They look like a spear head, and the openings beneath the arches are often quite narrow.

Lapita

A culture thought to be the common ancestor for some of the Pacific cultures, including cultures in Micronesia, Polynesia, and some of the coastal areas of Melanesia.

Leonardo Da Vinci

Often held up as the prototype of the "Renaissance man." He was a painter, sculptor, mathematician, inventor, musician, and anatomist among his other interests. He painted famous works such as the Mona Lisa and The Last Supper.

Lines

An identifiable path created by a point moving in space.

Lintels

Blocks of stone that go over a space created by two vertical supports, such as the area at the top of a doorway.

Malagan

New Ireland wood carvings created to honor those who have recently died and to help send the person's spirit to the ancestors.

Mannerism

Western period of art from around 1520 to 1600; it followed the High Renaissance period.

Marae

"Big house;" a meeting place for the community where the community gathers, performs ceremonies, and has all formal functions.

Master of Flemalle

Believed to have been the painter Robert Campin by most art scholars today. He gave us one of the first paintings to include a sense of perspective and space.

Mayan civilizations

Civilizations in Mesoamerica that began to form around 500 BC, flourished between 200-900 CE, and eventually ended in the.

Megalith

Large stone blocks used to create prehistoric monuments.

Menhir

The term for a megalith placed upright on one end.

Mesoamerica

Home to some of the great civilizations in the Americas, including the Olmec, Mayan, and Aztec cultures.

### Mesopotamia

Called the "cradle of civilization"; it was home to ancient cultures such as the Sumerians, Babylonians, and the Assyrians, and it was located in the area that we know today as Syria, Turkey, and Iraq, between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.

### Michelangelo

Often viewed by the public as having a touch of the divine, as evidenced by his nickname Il Divino; regarded as one of the greatest artists of all time. He created the famous David statue.

### Migration period art

The art produced by Germanic peoples from 300 to 900 CE.

### Moai

More commonly known as the "Easter Island heads." They are large rock sculptures of human figures, created sometime between 1250 and 1500 CE.

### Modern art

Art produced from the 1860s to the 1970s.

### Mona lisa

Portrait painted by da Vinci, thought to be of Lisa Gheradini.

### Nabta playa

Site for one of the oldest astrological monuments known; found south of the present day-city of Cairo in Egypt and estimated to be about 1,000 years older than Stonehenge.

### Nazca lines

A series of ancient geoglyphs created in the Nazca Desert of Peru.

### Negative space

The area of an artwork around the primary objects.

### Neoclassicism

A return to the styles and art created during the classical period.

### Newgrange

A passage tomb created in Ireland around 3200 BCE; made of a large circular mound of earth, with a passageway and chambers made of stone.

### Nok culture

A culture that emerged around 1000 BCE and lasted until around 300 CE; it is known for creating terracotta sculptures.

### Nonobjective images

Abstract art not based on real objects; studies in lines, colors, or other elements.

Objective image

One that is based on a real object or scene.

Oceanic art

The art produced by peoples of Australia and Pacific islands, such as Hawaii, Easter Island, the Marshall Islands, and New Guinea.

Olmec civilization

One of the first major Mesoamerican civilizations. This civilization, located in the south-central area of Mexico, began around 1500 BCE and lasted until around 400 BCE.

Opus anglicanum

Fine needlework produced in medieval England that often involved gold and silver threads.

Organic shapes

Have irregular or asymmetrical contours.

Orientalizing style

Ancient Greek style of pottery painting that was dominant in the eighth and seventh centuries BCE and was characterized by greater representation and narrative depictions; this style combined artistic elements from many other cultures, including Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Asia.

Outrigger canoes

Canoes with one or more supports on either side of the canoe.

Pablo Picasso

He created 20,000 pieces of art, including paintings, sculptures, drawings, and even theater sets that are associated with Cubism, Surrealism, Expressionism and other art movements of the 20th century.

Painting

Is the technique of applying paint, pigment, or other color medium to a surface, such as a canvas or wall.

Passage tombs

Consist of a stone passage way to a burial chamber, all of which is covered by an earthen mound.

Patronage

Is a system in which kings, rulers, and other wealthy individuals provided financial and other support to artists, including painters, musicians, and others.

### Photography

Is the process of creating images through the manipulation of light.

### Pieta

Famous sculpture that depicts the Virgin Mary holding the body of Jesus after he had been crucified.

### Plank masks

Masks that can be vertical, stretching above the head, or horizontal, stretching across the face.

### Pointillism

A technique where small, distinct dots of color are placed on the canvas to create an image.

### Portal tombs

Constructed by having several upright stone blocks with a capstone placed over them.

### Positive space

The area of an artwork that is occupied by the primary subjects.

### Postmodern art

Art that developed after modern art and/or that sought to contradict elements of modern art.

### Potters wheel

A revolving stand that can be used to form clay.

### Prehistoric art

Art produced before writing.

### Prehistory

The time before writing was invented.

### Principles of art

The ways in which the elements of art are used and placed within a piece of art.

### Printmaking

Is the creation of an image on one medium and the transfer of the image to another medium through ink or other pigment.

### Proportion

The dimensions or size of the different objects or areas in the artwork.

### Proportional system

A grid was used for many of the Egyptian sculptures, paintings, and other forms of art, creating a uniform representation.

Rapa nui

The culture that carved the Moai.

Raphael

Famous High Renaissance painter known for The School of Athens.

Realism

Period that began in France in the 1840s and rejected Romanticism in favor of common people and places.

Reliefs

Outlines of images on stone, wood, or other materials, where the background is carved away from the outlines so that the outlines stand out.

Rembrandt

Baroque painter who is regarded today as one of the greatest painters of all time. During his lifetime, it is estimated he created around 300 paintings, 300 etchings, and over 2,000 drawings.

Rhythm

The repetition of elements in the artwork.

Ribbed vaults

Created when two or three barrel vaults intersect.

Rococo

Art style developed in the 18th century in France. The movement and style were a reaction to the grandeur and strictness of the Baroque style. The art tends to be more playful, more infused with fantasy, and more lighthearted than most Baroque pieces.

Romanesque art

Includes art produced from around 1000 CE to the 13th century in Europe.

Romantic movement

A cultural movement that emphasized capturing strong emotions.

Romantic movement

Movement which placed a high emphasis on emotion, whether positive or negative.

Sculpture

Is a three-dimensional piece of art.

Sfumato

The appearance of a fine haze in a painting, which creates greater warmth around the figures and gives the scene a more dream-like appearance.

#### Shamanism

Involves a religious practice where a practitioner or shaman reaches an altered state of consciousness through trance in order to interact with the spiritual world.

#### Shapes

Flat, two-dimensional art elements, with height and width.

#### Shigir idol

Estimated to have been created in 7500 BCE, it is the oldest known wooden sculpture. The sculpture is of a human, although the body is flat and covered with geometric motifs.

#### Space

The empty areas around other objects.

#### Stela

A long, stone slab with inscriptions and carvings meant to glorify Mayan kings and their deeds.

#### Stick charts

These are used to help people navigate the ocean, noting the ocean swell patterns, island placements, and so on.

#### Stonehenge

Consists of an outer ring of smaller stones which surround the inner cromlech; the innermost stones of this monument found in England form a horseshoe shape that is aligned with the rising sun on the summer solstice.

#### Stucco

A plaster-like material that hardens when it dries.

#### Subdominant area

The middle ground of the composition.

#### Subordinate area

The area given the least amount of emphasis or attention.

#### Sumerians

One of the earliest ancient civilizations in Mesopotamia; developed sometime after 4000 BCE in the southern part of Mesopotamia.

#### Sunk relief

Technique of sculpture that consists of cutting an image into a.



Symmetrical balance

Occurs when the weight of the artwork's composition is evenly distributed.

Tassili n ajjer

One of the most famous sites of African rock art, it is located in the Sahara Desert in North Africa.

Tenebrism

A technique that uses sharp contrasts between light and dark with little intermediate values.

Texture

Refers to the way that something feels or, in the case of two-dimensional art such as paintings, what it looks like it may feel like.

The last supper

One of the first pieces to give us the classic High Renaissance style. The painting shows Jesus with his twelve disciples at the dinner shortly before his crucifixion.

Theodore Gericault

French Romantic painter who created The Raft of the Medusa

Thomas Gainsborough

Rococo painter who began painting landscapes before moving to portraits.

Tiki

Small human figures commonly made from nephrite, a greenish stone similar to jade.

Totem poles

Monumental sculptures that were created by indigenous groups in the Pacific Northwest.

Tumi

A ceremonial knife created by the Incas.

Ushabti

Small figurines that were placed in Egyptian tombs to act as a substitute for the person in case he or she was called upon to do manual labor in the afterlife.

Value

The lightness or darkness of a color.

Vincent Van Gogh

Dutch painter who sought to increase the emotion and expression of Impressionist art. He is also known for having cut off part of his own ear.

### Visual arts

Are primarily visual; we enjoy them through our eyes.

### Vitruvian man

Done in ink on paper by Leonardo da Vinci, the drawing shows the human figure combined with geometry. The figure represents the ideal proportions for a man based on ancient architecture proportions.

### Warka vase

An alabaster vase that has carvings on it; one of the oldest known examples of relief sculpture that tells a narrative.

### Woman of willendorf

Female figure thought to have been carved between 24,000 and 22,000 BC.

### Wondjina

Aboriginal Australian rain and cloud spirits; one style of rock art also goes by this name.

# Unit 1 Vocabulary

## **UNIT 1 Vocabulary**

### **Art**

"The expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting or sculpture, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power."

### **Art appraisers**

Determine the approximate value of artwork.

### **Art consultants**

Work with businesses, individuals, and organizations to find them pieces of art that meet their needs.

### **Art curators**

May work for museums, galleries, businesses, or private individuals that have collections of art; they may be involved with the creation, preservation, interpretation, display, and other aspects of a collection.

### **Art movements**

Refer to changes in art style or particular ideas that define the work of a group of artists at a certain time.

### **Art periods**

Are typically longer lasting than art movements and they are generally not intentional; they generally develop over time in response to factors such as the politics, social conditions, and cultures present at a certain point in time.

### **Commission**

One person or organization hires and pays for another person to create a piece of art.

### **Decorative arts**

Are works that combine not only an artistic sense but also a functional one.

### **Drawing**

Involves moving a tool across a dry surface to create marks on that surface.

### **Painting**

Is the technique of applying paint, pigment, or other color medium to a surface, such as a canvas or wall.

### **Patronage**

Is a system in which kings, rulers, and other wealthy individuals provided financial and other support to artists, including painters, musicians, and others.

Photography

Is the process of creating images through the manipulation of light.

Printmaking

Is the creation of an image on one medium and the transfer of the image to another medium through ink or other pigment.

Sculpture

Is a three-dimensional piece of art.

Visual arts

Are primarily visual; we enjoy them through our eyes.

# Review/Practice

**Click on the any link below for more Unit review and practice**

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Unit 1 Flashcard Vocabulary Review/Practice - Quizlet

# Unit 1: Questions



## **Unit 1 - Introduction to the Visual Arts**

### **Study Guide - Quiz Review and Practice Questions**

1. Determine the approximate value of artwork.
  - a. Art Consultant
  - b. Art Appraiser
  - c. Art Curator
  - d. Visual Arts
  
2. Work with businesses, individuals, and organizations to find them pieces of art that meet their needs.
  - a. Art dealer
  - b. Art collector
  - c. Art consultant
  - d. Art appraiser
  
3. May work for museums, galleries, businesses, or private individuals that have collections of art; they may be involved with the creation, preservation, interpretation, display, and other aspects of a collection.
  - a. Art consultant
  - b. Art Appraiser
  - c. Art curator
  - d. Sculpture
  
4. (Matching) Drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, sculpture
5. (Matching) Visual Arts, Decorative, Performing, Written
6. Motivations: money, personal satisfaction/passion, inspire change, religious inspiration

