

AMAZING ARTISTS

UNIT OVERVIEW

Did you know that besides painting the “Mona Lisa”, Leonardo Da Vinci really loved to party? Did you know that Vincent Van Gogh mutilated his own ear because he didn’t take criticism well? The interesting and intriguing world of Art and some of its most famous artists, comes alive in this highly motivating unit. **Part I - Core Lessons** focuses on five of the most famous artists of all time: Leonardo Da Vinci, Rembrandt, Van Gogh, Picasso, and Jackson Pollock in a structured, information-based section. Each lesson has a detailed biography, related activities and accompanying student notes in **Part II**. **Part III - Optional Lessons** helps to build flexibility into the unit and keep student interest at its peak with possible homework or enrichment activities. This unit is sure to motivate and “wow” students - a must in any middle years art class.

PART I - CORE TEACHING LESSONS

Each core lesson is designed with the following elements: objectives, relevant vocabulary, materials, list of works of art by featured artist, biography of featured artist, and activities based upon the featured artist’s themes.

- Lesson #1 - Introduction - *Famous Signature, Amazing Artists Wordsearch*
- Lesson #2 - Art Vocabulary - *Art Vocabulary Survivor*
- Lesson #3 - Leonardo Da Vinci (Renaissance Period) - *Keeping Things In Perspective*
- Lesson #4 - Rembrandt (Baroque Period) - *I Want To Draw Me!*
- Lesson #5 - Vincent Van Gogh (Impressionism) - *Imagery Activity*
- Lesson #6 - Picasso (Cubism) - *Concert Poster*
- Lesson #7 - Jackson Pollock (Abstract Expressionism Period) - *Abstract Schmaabstract*
- Lesson #8 - Review - *Amazing Artists Crossword*
- Lesson #9 - Exam

PART II - STUDENT NOTES FOR OVERHEAD

Students write down notes from overhead transparencies. These notes provide the information base for the unit and give students material from which to study.

PART III - OPTIONAL LESSONS

This collection of activities is excellent for homework or enrichment.

- 1) Artist Of The Month
- 2) Other Famous Artists Report
- 3) The Start Of Art - *Cave Art*
- 4) Bibliography Of Og By Thog
- 5) Renaissance Fresco Painting
- 6) Hey Leonardo, How Big Is Your Nose
- 7) Every Day Objects Collage / Sculpture
- 8) Student Prepared Exam
- 9) Famous Artists Wordsearch
- 10) Artist In The Class
- 11) Internet Sites

ART FOR THE UNIT

The library is a great resource for locating pictures of the paintings in this unit. Also, the Internet has many great websites. Simply search under the artist’s name to find suitable websites. These websites oftentimes include pictures of paintings as well. Try to expose students to as many different artists, styles, and periods as possible.

FAMOUS SIGNATURE

Name: _____

Directions:

Practice writing your signature in the large box below. Remember, it should be original and creative since it will be signed on all your masterpieces created during this unit. In the small box below, write your final signature.

Practice Signatures:

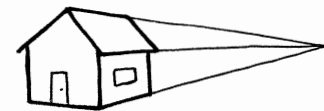
Final Signature:

AMAZING ARTISTS VOCABULARY

Name: _____

Periods

Renaissance - means "Rebirth" or "Reawakening"; period after Dark Ages when arts/sciences flourished



Baroque - period when religion was a main topic of art; portraits were popular works of art



Impressionism - period when natural objects were portrayed with bright colours and unique techniques; artists tried to capture an immediate "impression" of what the eyes see in a glance



Cubism - period and style when cubes and other geometric shapes were made into images



Abstract Expressionism - art that has no specific form to it



Types of Art

Painting - different mediums are used to express the artist's ideas such as watercolour, acrylic, oil on canvass



Collage - an assortment of items brought together often in an unusual order



Fresco - a type of art where paint is applied to wet plaster



Mural - a large painting for a wall or ceiling



Sculpture - a three-dimensional work of art

LEONARDO DA VINCI (1452-1519)

Leonardo was from Vinci (a small town near Florence, Italy). He was a true Renaissance Man - seeking insight and enlightenment from many different fields of study. Not only was he an artist, but he also made ground-breaking discoveries in many other areas such as medicine, engineering, astronomy, geology, architecture, music, aviation, mapmaking, and even mountain climbing. He was a true genius who excelled in whatever task he undertook - even surpassing the achievements of experts who focussed solely in one field. His life story is about the power of the human spirit to overcome - especially considering his unfortunate circumstances at birth.



Leonardo's parents were never married. His mother was a peasant woman and his father was a wealthy notary. The first two years of his life, he was raised by his mother until his father's family took him to live at their estate. At the estate, he was exposed to beautiful grounds that intrigued him. Even as a young man, he would spend hours just observing nature. Since his father travelled a lot, he was raised by his grandparents. He never really felt like he belonged anywhere, since his mother and father both married other people and began their own families.



KEEPING THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE

AMAZING ARTISTS WORDSEARCH

Name: _____

Directions: Find the following vocabulary words relating to art and artists. The words can be found in every direction. Good luck!

G	M	S	I	N	O	I	S	S	E	R	P	X	E	C
N	F	E	C	N	A	S	S	I	A	N	E	R	U	S
I	A	Q	H	M	D	O	I	J	X	Q	E	B	Q	B
T	M	C	I	M	P	A	S	T	O	V	I	E	O	H
N	G	P	A	M	T	A	V	E	I	S	K	R	R	W
I	F	R	R	F	V	F	B	T	M	S	X	U	A	U
A	W	Z	O	E	M	R	C	S	Y	U	P	T	B	U
P	W	G	S	T	S	E	G	Q	T	R	E	P	G	M
N	M	B	C	U	P	S	G	M	U	R	A	L	H	R
O	B	Q	U	S	J	C	I	A	C	E	A	U	T	K
I	D	C	R	E	Y	O	R	O	L	A	G	C	K	U
T	E	E	O	F	G	A	L	V	N	L	G	S	T	P
C	P	X	S	I	G	O	A	U	E	I	O	P	T	E
A	L	U	S	F	U	M	A	T	O	S	S	C	H	Y
E	B	L	O	R	Y	G	F	S	R	M	M	M	E	C

ABSTRACT
ACTION PAINTING
BAROQUE
CHIAROSCURO
COLLAGE
CUBISM

EXPRESSIONISM
FRESCO
IMPASTO
IMPRESSIONISM
MURAL
PERSPECTIVE

REALISM
RENAISSANCE
SCULPTURE
SFUMATO
SURREALISM
WATERCOLOUR

ANSWER

ext, show the students pre-selected paintings from the artists studied in this unit: Da Vinci, embrandt, Van Gogh, Picasso, and Pollock.

list of paintings by each artist is included in each lesson. Books about artists from the library the Internet make excellent resources.

plain that these are works of art from five of the most famous painters in history. The paintings differ, depending on the time period in which they were painted and what was popular during each period.

Discuss and critique the paintings with the students. For example - impressions (likes/dislikes), technique, use of colour, quality of work, talent of artist, etc. could all be discussed. Let students voice their opinions about the works of art.

The above step is a pre-test activity and will give a good indication of student background knowledge about the subject matter. When the unit is done, repeat this activity to demonstrate how much the students have learned about the artists, art periods and styles, and elements used by the artists in their paintings.

Commence with the student notes relating to the five main periods that will be discussed during the course of the unit. The notes can be dictated to the students, written on the board or presented on an overhead projector. (Early in the unit, it is best to use an overhead projector to display the notes, since this method makes it easier for the teacher to throw occasional "dirty looks" at students who are not on task!)

Explain that each "period" refers to a particular time in history when a certain style was

Finally, students complete the activity, "Amazing Artists Wordsearch", which is designed to introduce vocabulary upcoming in the unit.

G	M	S	I	N	O	I	S	S	E	R	P	X	E	C
N	F	E	C	N	A	S	S	I	A	N	E	R	U	S
I	A	Q	H	M	D	O	I	J	X	Q	E	B	Q	B
T	M	C	I	M	P	A	S	T	O	V	I	E	O	H
N	G	P	A	M	T	A	V	E	I	S	K	R	R	W
I	F	R	R	F	V	F	B	T	M	S	X	U	A	U
A	W	Z	O	E	M	R	C	S	Y	U	P	T	B	U
P	W	G	S	T	S	E	G	Q	T	R	E	P	G	M
N	M	B	C	U	P	S	G	M	U	R	A	L	H	R
O	B	Q	U	S	J	C	I	A	C	E	A	U	T	K
I	D	C	R	E	Y	O	R	O	L	A	G	C	K	U
T	E	E	O	F	G	A	L	V	N	L	G	S	T	P
C	P	X	S	I	G	O	A	U	E	I	O	P	T	E
A	L	U	S	F	U	M	A	T	O	S	S	C	H	Y
E	B	L	O	R	Y	G	F	S	R	M	M	M	E	C