

Introduction to Classical, Medieval, and Renaissance Art

Classical Period

500 B.C.

Classical Period

The Classical Period covered the height of the Greek culture and the Roman Empire, from its rise to its fall, about 500 B.C. to A.D. 500. The people of these ancient societies developed many of the ideas that, today, make up our mathematics, science, literature, and art.

Forms of Art: sculpture, painted pottery, murals, mosaics

Purposes: to show the importance of people and leaders, as well as gods and goddesses

Characteristics of Classical Art:

- figures look idealized, perfect
- bodies look active, more convincingly
- bodies are often nude, sometimes draped in togas
- faces are bland and calm, without emotion
- scenes show heroic figures or real people doing real tasks of daily life
- little background or sense of perspective (when distant objects look smaller and far away)

Medieval Period

A.D. 500

Medieval Period

The Medieval Period in Europe, which lasted roughly from A.D. 500 to A.D. 1400, was characterized by the rise of feudalism and the controlling power of the Catholic Church in people's lives.

Forms of Art: stained-glass windows, sculptures, illuminated manuscripts, paintings, tapestries

Purposes: to teach religion to people who cannot read or write

Characteristics of Medieval Art:

- subjects mostly religious
- figures look flat and stiff with little real movement
- important figures are large
- fully clothed, draped in deeply carved, stiff-looking clothes
- faces are solemn with little emotion
- paintings use vibrant colors
- flat, two-dimensional painted figures
- backgrounds a single color, often gold, no interest in creating a realistic space

Renaissance

A.D. 1400 A.D. 1650

Renaissance

The Renaissance included a rebirth of interest in Classical culture. It began around 1400 and lasted until 1650. People rediscovered the writings and artworks of the Greeks and Romans, borrowed their ancient ideas, and combined them in new ways.

Forms of Art: sculptures, murals, drawings, paintings

Purposes: to show the importance of people and nature, not just religion

Characteristics of Renaissance Art:

- both religious and nonreligious scenes
- figures look idealized, perfect
- bodies may look active, moving
- bodies may be nude or clothed
- real people doing real tasks of daily life
- faces express what people are thinking
- colors respond to the light that falls on them
- interest in nature, lots of natural detail
- full, deep backgrounds with perspective
- paintings are symmetrical (balanced on both sides)

Analyzing Art by Historical Period

Directions: When your group receives a placard, carefully examine the art piece. Then review the information on Student Handout 1.3A to determine in which historical period—classical, medieval, or Renaissance—the art piece was created. Circle the period on the part of the handout that corresponds with your placard. Then write the reasons why you chose that period. Do this for each placard you receive.

Placard 1.3A



Period: **Classical** Medieval Renaissance

Reasons why we chose this period:

Title: _____
Artist: _____
Year: _____

Placard 1.3B

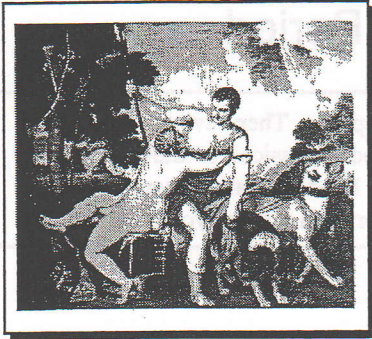


Period: **Classical** Medieval Renaissance

Reasons why we chose this period:

Title: _____
Artist: _____
Year: _____

Placard 1.3C



Period: **Classical** Medieval Renaissance

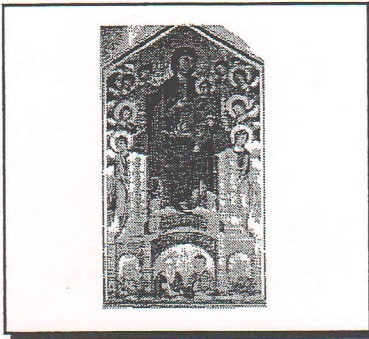
Reasons why we chose this period:

Title: _____

Artist: _____

Year: _____

Placard 1.3D



Period: **Classical** Medieval Renaissance

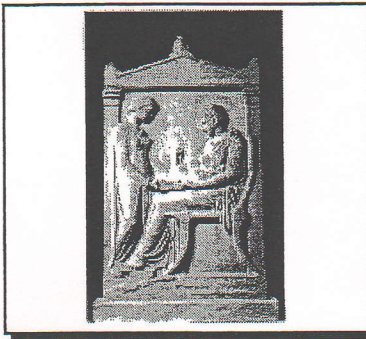
Reasons why we chose this period:

Title: _____

Artist: _____

Year: _____

Placard 1.3E



Period: **Classical** Medieval Renaissance

Reasons why we chose this period:

Title: _____

Artist: _____

Year: _____

Placard 1.3F



Period: **Classical** Medieval Renaissance

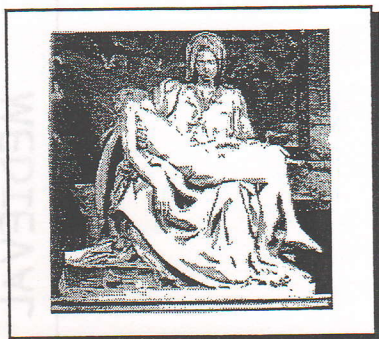
Reasons why we chose this period:

Title: _____

Artist: _____

Year: _____

Placard 1.3G



Period: **Classical** Medieval Renaissance

Reasons why we chose this period:

Title: _____

Artist: _____

Year: _____

Name _____ Core _____

Date _____

<p>RENAISSANCE</p>	
<p>MEDIEVAL</p>	 <p>Reasons why we chose this period:</p> <p>Period: <input type="checkbox"/> Classical <input type="checkbox"/> Medieval <input type="checkbox"/> Renaissance</p>
<p>CLASSICAL</p>	 <p>Reasons why we chose this period:</p> <p>Period: <input type="checkbox"/> Classical <input type="checkbox"/> Medieval <input type="checkbox"/> Renaissance</p>