



**Questions
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**STUDY GUIDE:
FAMOUS ARTISTS: WORKS, STYLES, PERIODS**

MEDIEVAL ART

Medieval art refers to the art completed during the period between 300 A.D. and the early 1300s. The main subject matter was the Christian religion.

Artists of this time period ignored perspective and gave their work a flat look. Most of the paintings were painted to tell a religious story, and symbols were used extensively, such as painting the sky gold to signify God's supreme presence in the heavens. Because they were concerned about religion and life after death, they did not worry about painting the world as it really was.

MOST OF THE ARTISTS OF THIS TIME ARE UNKNOWN, ALTHOUGH MANY SAMPLES OF THEIR WORK REMAIN.

Although almost all medieval art dealt with the subject of religion, several different styles were developed, based mainly upon the time frame and the location of the painter.

STYLES OF MEDIEVAL ART

1. **BYZANTINE STYLE:** This popular style was started in 300 A.D. and was centered around the city of Byzantium, which is now Istanbul, Turkey. It became the standard style for Eastern Europe and the Near East. All pictures focused on religion. The figures were very stiff and not life like. Much color was used, and most colors were used to symbolize religious ideas. One of the most famous paintings of the time was Enthroned Madonna and Child by an unknown artist. It now hangs in the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. It shows Mary holding baby Jesus, who is pictured as a small child, but created with the facial features of an adult male.

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2. **Sandro Botticelli:** He began Neo-Platonism, which combined religious ideas and mythology. His most important painting is The Birth of Venus. In this painting, Venus, the goddess of beauty and love, is shown emerging from the sea, where she was supposedly born. She is standing on a seashell. Botticelli also painted Primavera, a figure that represents the season, spring that is carried by the west wind. The three Graces from mythology are dancing in a circle in the center of the picture. Many of Botticelli's works were painted upon wooden panels.
3. **Leonardo da Vinci:** He was probably the greatest and best-known artist of the 1400s. Besides painting, he was an **inventor** and drew many sketches of interesting inventions, from which inventors devised many of their ideas in later times. His two most famous paintings were the Mona Lisa (now in the Louvre) and The Last Supper, which was a fresco showing Jesus and his 12 disciples at their last meal. They are seated at a long table. This fresco was painted on a damp wall with oil paint, which caused the paint to chip and crack. It is now so badly damaged that it can not be viewed by the public.

OTHER WORKS OF DA VINCI:

The Madonna of the Rocks

La Gioconda

Leonardo da Vinci: A Self-Portrait

RENAISSANCE PAINTERS IN FLANDERS:

While Italian painters loved creating frescoes, Flemish painters preferred to paint using oils. They painted realistically but added many details.

1. **Jan Van Eyck** painted The Arnolfini Wedding, where a couple is being married by Jesus instead of by a priest. A pair of slippers is tossed to the side, and a dog is in the forefront of the picture. The people and their surroundings are realistic. Van Eyck is noted for the development of **oil painting**.
2. **Hieronymus Bosch** painted The Temptation of St. Anthony, which is a collection of all types of grotesque creatures.

RENAISSANCE PAINTERS IN VENICE, ITALY:

1. **Titian:** He was the main painter from this area, and he painted mainly with oils on canvas. He used large brushes and made wide, sweeping movements. He chose warm, rich colors. One artist accused him of painting with a broom because his lines were so coarse and thick.

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ITALIAN BAROQUE ARTISTS:

1. **Caravaggio:** He painted directly from life and copied nature faithfully. He showed the poor people of the time in a realistic fashion.
2. **Carracci:** He painted Hercules at the Crossroads, where Hercules is trying to decide whether he wants to go the easy route, and sin, or go the hard route and obtain pleasure through work.

FLEMISH (FLANDERS) BAROQUE ARTISTS:

1. **Peter Paul Rubens:** He painted Elevation of the Cross, which pictures Jesus upon the cross as it is being raised. It is a very emotional picture with realistic people and surroundings.
2. **Anton Van Dyck:** He was an assistant to Rubens in his studio. He became the painter to the Court of King Charles I of England. He painted the king on a hunting excursion in his painting called Portrait of Charles I Hunting.

SPANISH BAROQUE ARTISTS:

1. **Diego Velazquez:** He was one of the greatest Spanish painters of all times. He painted mainly portraits in the rich, baroque style. His subjects appear very personable and are painted with much color. Some of his more famous paintings are of Prince Phillip IV. In The Maids of Honor, he painted the Spanish princess, Margarita, surrounded by her friends and maids.

DUTCH BAROQUE ARTISTS:

1. **Rembrandt van Rijn** (called just **Rembrandt**): He became the greatest master of all Dutch artists. He painted religious subjects even though he, himself, was not very religious and followed no particular faith. He liked to paint the Bible stories so that the emotions of the people were shown.

WORKS OF REMBRANDT:

Jacob Blessing the Sons of Joseph

The Night Watch

ROCOCO STYLE: This was style during the late Baroque Period that appeared mainly toward the end of the 1600s in France. It was most popular from 1720 to 1780. Rococo paintings were relaxing and lighthearted, with very few serious topics.

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Degas painted inside and outside scenes. He's especially well known for his ballet dancers and landscapes.

Jean Francois Millet was another impressionist who was not as well known. However, his painting called The Gleaners was much admired and hangs in the Louvre today. It pictures three stooped-over women who are working in the fields.

POST IMPRESSIONISM:

The three most important postimpressionists were **Paul Cezanne**, **Paul Gauguin**, and **Vincent Van Gogh**. Other postimpressionist painters were **George Seurat** and **Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec**. Van Gogh was Dutch, while the others were all French.

These artists stressed form and mass to make their paintings have a more durable appearance. They reacted against the realism that the impressionists had shown.

Paul Cezanne believed that all forms of nature could be reduced to cones, cylinders, and cubes. His paintings became rather abstract. He liked to paint still-life, which he also painted using geometric shapes.

Gauguin settled on the island of Tahiti, and his paintings reflected this area. He made his people look puzzled because he believed that humans were always searching for answers and meaning in life. Many of his paintings were of Polynesian women.

Van Gogh expressed his feelings through the use of strong color. His art was very intense. He is known for his Starry Night and Sunflowers paintings. In his painting called Field of Yellow Corn, he just squeezed a tube of yellow paint directly onto the canvas. In a fit of depression, he cut off one of his ears, and eventually he committed suicide.

Toulouse-Lautrec painted and drew pictures of the night life of Paris. His paintings were lively paintings of actresses, dance hall girls, circus performers, and singers.

George Seurat created a style called **pointillism**. He painted by creating tiny dots that blended from a distance to form a picture. Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte is a huge picture painted in the pointillism style.

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6. **Winslow Homer:** Known for his watercolor paintings of seascapes.
7. **Grandma Moses:** An American artist of the twentieth century who began to paint when she was in her seventies. She painted mainly farm life, in a very simple way, similar to the art of a child. This style was called **primitivism**.
8. **Georgia O'Keefe:** An American painter of the twentieth century who painted many Southwestern scenes, showing deserts, wildlife, and Indian artifacts.
9. **Jackson Pollock:** An American painter of the twentieth century who created abstract paintings by pouring and swirling paint on the canvas.
10. **Norman Rockwell:** An artist and illustrator known for his illustrations for The Saturday Evening Post magazines. He portrayed rural scenes very realistically and showed the lifestyles of people who lived in rural locations.
11. **Gilbert Stuart:** Known for his portraits of the Presidents and his entire series of George Washington portraits.
12. **Archibald M. Willard:** An artist who painted scenes during the Revolutionary War. His most famous work is The Spirit of '76, which shows three wounded soldiers who are still marching along with spirit. One is playing a fife, while the other two are playing drums. A company of soldiers is following them.
13. **James Whistler:** A nineteenth century painter who painted his mother, dressed in black, and seated on the edge of a straight chair. The original name of the painting is Arrangement in Grey and Black, Number 1, but it has become known as Whistler's Mother.
14. **Grant Wood:** The artist known for American Gothic, which shows a farmer and a woman standing in front of a farmhouse. They both wear stern expressions, and the farmer is holding a pitchfork.
15. **Frank Lloyd Wright:** An American sculptor who created the philosophy of **organic architecture**. He believed that the building should develop out of its natural surroundings. He created the "prairie houses," which were single-family residences located on the prairies during the very early 1900s. The Robie House in Chicago is an example of this style. He also designed the Larkin Building in Buffalo, New York, which was the first office building to use air-conditioning, double glass windows, and metal furniture.

OTHER EXAMPLES OF WRIGHT'S WORKS INCLUDE:

Imperial Hotel in Tokyo; Millard House in Pasadena, California; The Guggenheim Museum in New York City; and Falling Water at Bear Run, Pennsylvania