

#9226

THE HISTORY OF WESTERN ART: LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

AMBROSE VIDEO PUBLISHING

1999

Grade Levels: 12-13+

30 minutes



DESCRIPTION

The medieval period of Western art focused on religious themes as teaching tools, not as art. Discusses the discovery of perspective and oil in painting, while highlighting works by Giotto, Brunelleschi, Masaccio, Donatello, Van Eyck, Mantegna, Piero, and Botticelli.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Art Connections

- Standard: Understands connections among the various art forms and other disciplines
 - Benchmark: Knows how characteristics of the arts vary within a particular historical period or style and how these characteristics relate to ideas, issues, or themes in other disciplines

Subject Area: Visual Arts

- Standard: Understands the visual arts in relation to history and cultures
 - Benchmark: Understands relationships among works of art in terms of history, aesthetics, and culture
- Standard: Understands the characteristics and merits of one's own artwork and the artwork of others
 - Benchmark: Understands some of the implications of intention and purpose in particular works of art

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To introduce the Medieval period.
2. To examine the works of well-known and influential artists of the Medieval period.
3. To study other important artists of the Medieval period.

VOCABULARY

1. genre
2. humanistic
3. secular

AFTER SHOWING

1. From 1348 to 1350 the Plague killed one-third of all Europeans. What effect did it have upon religion, society and the arts?

2. The period covered in this film saw the beginning of the end of feudalism as well as the construction of the great cathedrals. What conditions helped bring these about?
3. Why were Italian art subjects virtually all spiritual while in Northern Europe they were becoming more temporal?
4. Compare and contrast the qualities of and techniques of painting with oils versus tempera.
5. Find out why one-point perspective was so innovative. What is *two-point perspective*? What other techniques does the artist employ to create the illusion of perspective?
6. How did these techniques influence 14th and 15th centuries' works? Include Dante Alighieri, John Huss and Johannes Gutenberg.

RELATED RESOURCES



Captioned Media Program

- The History of Western Art: The Age of Splendor #9229
- The History of Western Art: A New Dream #9224



World Wide Web

The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **NIXNET MEDIEVAL**

<http://www.medievalarthistory.com/paint.html>

Lists paintings and frescoes of Italy, France and the Low Countries, and England specific to daily life, religious life, chapels, and other significant events in the people's life. Provides links to other resources relating to the Medieval period.

- **ART HISTORY RESOURCES ON THE WEB**

<http://witcombe.sbc.edu/arthmedieval.html#earlymedieval>

A comprehensive, detailed site on Medieval art, including other art periods. Provides numerous names of Medieval artists to click on in order to view their paintings, and the description and short explanation of each painting.

- **WEBMUSEUM, PARIS**

<http://www.ibiblio.org/wm/paint/auth>

Provides a long list of artists' names to choose from. Upon selecting a particular artist, gives a biographical description, the artist's works, and links to specific art-related terminology.

- **ARTLEX ART DICTIONARY**

<http://www.artlex.com/artlex/intro.html>

Find definitions for more than 3,200 terms used in visual culture, along with thousands of images, pronunciation notes, quotations, and cross references.