

Famous Artists of the Renaissance: Learning Record

A Cross-Disciplinary Fine Arts Curriculum

Grade Range: 3rd–8th

Subject Focus: Visual Arts, Art History, Writing, Critical Thinking

Content Description

Famous Artists of the Renaissance is a literature- and project-based fine arts curriculum that introduces students to three influential Renaissance artists: Donatello, Leonardo da Vinci, and Michelangelo. Through biographical readings, picture study, notebooking, and optional hands-on art projects, students gain a broad understanding of the Renaissance period and the lasting impact of these artists on Western art.

The curriculum emphasizes observational skills, critical thinking, and reflective writing as students analyze famous works, learn about artistic techniques and media, and explore the cultural and historical context of Renaissance art. Each artist unit includes suggested reading, discussion questions, visual analysis prompts, and notebooking or journaling activities.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Understand the historical and cultural significance of the Renaissance era.
- Identify key contributions of Donatello, Leonardo da Vinci, and Michelangelo.
- Analyze works of art using formal elements such as line, shape, texture, and composition.
- Compare artistic techniques and styles among the featured artists.
- Develop observational and descriptive skills through picture study.
- Use writing and discussion to express interpretations and responses to art.
- Demonstrate comprehension of artist biographies through narration or notebooking.
- Explore the connection between science, architecture, and art in Renaissance thinking.

- Engage in optional hands-on art activities to experience Renaissance techniques.

Standards Alignment

Visual Arts Standards (NCAS)

- VA:Re7.1.5a: Compare visual characteristics of artwork from various cultures and historical periods.
- VA:Re8.1.5a: Interpret art by analyzing subject matter, characteristics, and context.
- VA:Cn10.1.6a: Generate a collection of ideas reflecting current interests and concerns that could be investigated in art-making.
- VA:Cr2.1.5a: Demonstrate quality craftsmanship through care for and use of materials, tools, and equipment.

Common Core ELA Standards

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4–8.3: Explain events, procedures, or ideas in a text based on specific information.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4–8.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.4–8.1: Engage effectively in collaborative discussions.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.4–8.6: Acquire and use academic and domain-specific vocabulary.

Social Studies (C3 Framework)

- D2.His.1.3-5: Create and use chronological sequences of related events to compare developments over time.
- D2.His.2.6-8: Analyze multiple factors that influenced perspectives of people during historical events.

Scope and Sequence

This curriculum is divided into three artist units, each of which can span 1–3 weeks depending on the depth of study. Each unit includes a biographical study, picture analysis, discussion or journaling prompts, and optional project work.

The progression encourages students to:

- Build background knowledge of the Renaissance.
- Study one artist at a time through literature and guided reflection.
- Make connections between historical events and artistic development.
- Reinforce understanding through creative or written expression.

It can be used as a fine arts core, enrichment, or integrated into a humanities block.

Educational Benefits

- **Multisensory Engagement:** Combines visual, verbal, and tactile learning.
- **Historical Integration:** Deepens understanding of Renaissance culture.
- **Flexible Application:** Works across ages and academic levels.
- **Art Appreciation:** Encourages thoughtful interaction with classic works.
- **Portfolio-Ready:** Written and visual outputs serve as learning documentation.

For more information or to view additional resources:

<https://ourjourneywestward.com>