



Art & Design Knowledge Organiser: The History of Christianity in art



Overview

Children look at the first depictions of Christianity in art which at the time were forms of worship. They investigate the ways Jesus was portrayed and when the image we all recognise now came into being. They investigate the different art works through the ages. Easter in particular, is extremely well illustrated and the children focus on many styles of art depicting the betrayal of Jesus by Judas and Peter. Comparing and contrasting the styles of the artists and focusing on how they have represented trust, betrayal and forgiveness.

Big questions/ideas	Chronology																								
Why was Christianity such an important aspect of early art? What were the early forms of art? What changed in art in the last two centuries? How do you think the artist(s) have represented Jesus in this painting/mosaic/sculpture/fresco? Compare early religious art to more contemporary work, especially artists representing the betrayal of Jesus. To relate Bible verses to the art representing it eg Luke 23 v 34 Then said Jesus, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do".	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>2nd century</td><td>The oldest Christian sculptures are from sarcophagi.</td></tr> <tr> <td>4th century</td><td>Wall painting mosaics from the early catacombs in Rome. Eg 'Jesus healing the bleeding woman'</td></tr> <tr> <td>4th century</td><td>small-scale devotional diptych panel paintings of Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mary, or Saints, proved hugely popular.</td></tr> <tr> <td>5th century</td><td>Christian art is classified as Byzantine.</td></tr> <tr> <td>1100</td><td>Mosaics in monasteries become popular eg Daphni Monastery in Greece</td></tr> <tr> <td>1498</td><td>'The Last Supper' Leonardo da Vinci</td></tr> <tr> <td>1520</td><td>'The Transfiguration' Raphael</td></tr> <tr> <td>1600</td><td>'The Calling of St Matthew' Caravaggio</td></tr> <tr> <td>1859</td><td>'The Angelus' Jean-Francois Millet</td></tr> <tr> <td>1850-2019</td><td>Change in attitude towards Christian art from Worship to appreciation of the art.</td></tr> <tr> <td>1951</td><td>'Christ of St John of the Cross' Salvador Dali.</td></tr> <tr> <td>1900-</td><td>Many modern artists produced well-known works of art for churches.</td></tr> </table>	2 nd century	The oldest Christian sculptures are from sarcophagi.	4 th century	Wall painting mosaics from the early catacombs in Rome. Eg 'Jesus healing the bleeding woman'	4 th century	small-scale devotional diptych panel paintings of Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mary, or Saints, proved hugely popular.	5 th century	Christian art is classified as Byzantine.	1100	Mosaics in monasteries become popular eg Daphni Monastery in Greece	1498	'The Last Supper' Leonardo da Vinci	1520	'The Transfiguration' Raphael	1600	'The Calling of St Matthew' Caravaggio	1859	'The Angelus' Jean-Francois Millet	1850-2019	Change in attitude towards Christian art from Worship to appreciation of the art.	1951	'Christ of St John of the Cross' Salvador Dali.	1900-	Many modern artists produced well-known works of art for churches.
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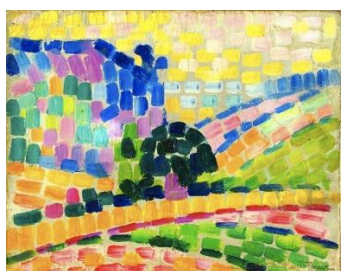
Main skills

Enquiry: research using a variety of sources...asking questions.

Interpretations e.g. source analysis: examining examples of the artists' work and identifying change and continuity.

Analysis: Comparing and contrasting the styles and techniques used.

Creation of mosaic: children study examples of the Roman mosaics and examples of Jean Metzinger who used paint to create a mosaic effect in his work.



Key vocabulary

Paleo-Christian art	the art produced by Christians or under Christian patronage from the earliest period of Christianity
fresco	technique of mural painting executed on freshly laid or wet lime plaster
mosaics	piece of art or image made from the assembling of small pieces of coloured glass, stone, or other materials.
sculpture	the branch of the visual arts that operates in three dimensions
Byzantine art	refers to the body of Christian Greek artistic products of the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire, as well as the nations and states that inherited culturally from the empire.
diptych	a painting, especially an altarpiece, on two hinged wooden panels which can be closed like a book.

Curriculum links and further research

Christian values: Trust, Forgiveness, Compassion

- ❖ PSCH - What values do the artists show/represent?
- ❖ History- Early Christian art - current day
- ❖ Geography - examples of Christian art around the World (mainly Europe)

Useful websites: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdyJO-aAv8>



