

World Religions Through Art

Summary

The activity examines the history and beliefs of world faiths through selected works of art.

Description of the activity

The activity involves working with the web resource "Religious art". This resource refers to spiritual concepts that have always been expressed through painting, sculpture, architecture and other arts. It includes images of sacred buildings, representations of gods, goddesses, saints and artefacts used for worship put religions into a cultural context.

Religious art clearly identifies faiths' key features, and can reveal the similarities between traditions such as the "great flood", often a feature of "creation" stories. Yet comparing the aesthetic style of major religions clarifies also the different attitudes in their philosophies to life and death.

Activity structure

- **Preferred premises of the activity:** the activity can be held in class
- **Resources needed:** A white board, projector or a black board.
- **Recommended number of people participating:** a class of students (20-30 people).
- **Previous knowledge of participants necessary:** Some previous knowledge about religions might be necessary. A good reference point could be reading chapter 1 of this guide. It will also be good if teachers cooperate with an art expert/art teacher.
- **Activity duration:** the activity covers different religions with not a small number of visual art objects per each, so the activity may require at least several lessons.

Learning Objectives

Students to acquire knowledge about different religions through studying art objects. Students can also learn about different art techniques used during the centuries and also about the historical, geographical, economic and social context of life when these artworks were created.

Expected Outcomes

Students will broaden their scope of understanding of different religions and cultures. They will acquire knowledge about important artworks from different cultures. Students will be able to compare art throughout the centuries with contemporary art and the values expressed by it.

Target group

Students between 13 and 18 years of age

Subject of the curriculum in which the activity could be implemented

Philosophy
Arts
Languages
History
Geography





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Learning style of this activity

Visual, Verbal, Social

Learning objects to be used with this activity

Web resource "Religious art".

<http://www.visual-arts-cork.com/religious-art.htm#history>



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