

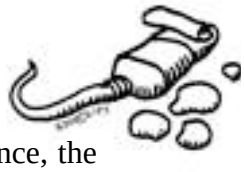
The French American Center of Montpellier
www.frenchamericancenter.com

Art History

Activity One – Language – What tense do we use to talk about history ? The past tense of course. Today we will identify the different past tenses.

Activity Two – Read the text.

The History of Art



The study of the history of art is a relatively recent phenomenon; before the Renaissance, the modern concept of "art" did not exist. Over time, art historians have changed their views about what type of art is interesting. For example, during the early Victorian era, the fifteenth century Italian artists were considered inferior to those of sixteenth century High Renaissance. The Pre-Raphaelites disagreed with this. Now people agree that it is important to treat all the art forms equally. So, Australian Aboriginal art is not better or worse than Michelangelo—it is just different. Art historical analysis has also evolved and now we study the social and political use of art, not just the technical aspects and beauty What was viewed simply as a masterpiece is now understood as an economic, social, philosophical, and cultural manifestation of the artist's world-view, philosophy, intentions and background.

Activity Three : Answer the questions.

1. Have people studied the history of art for a long time ?
2. What have historians changed their view about ?
3. What did the pre-raphaelites disagree with ?
4. Why is Aboriginal art just as important as Michelangelo ?
5. How has art analysis changed?

Activity Four – with your partner find and identify all the different past tenses used in the text.

Activity Five – With your partner research one of the following artists and tell his story using the past tense.

- Alexandre Cabanel
- Van Gogh
- Cezanne
- Picasso
- Da Vinci
- Renoir

Activity Six – Visit to Musée Fabre.

Answer the observation questions while you visit the exhibition.

Sketch the picture you like the most.

Describe in detail the picture you like the most.

Find the picture you like the least and say why.

Circle the adjectives you feel describe the exhibition as a whole.

Impressive	Talented	Dull
Beautiful	Detailed	elegant
Inspiring	Colorful	Intricate
Bland	Simple	Blurry
Ugly	Realistic	Unapealing
Attractive	True to life	Unattractiv

Activity Seven – In the park – Art Critics.

First let's read the text :

How to Critique and Write about Art

The following steps—description, analysis, interpretation and evaluation— are the steps in a formal critique. It is called the Feldman method. It is an established critique method that has been used by students and professionals alike for over 50 years.

Describe

A list of everything you see in the work.Imagine that you are describing the artwork to someone over the telephone.

List

Name of artist, title of work, and gallery or location of artwork.

Note First Impression

Make a note of your first spontaneous reaction to the artwork.



Analyze

Try to decide what the artist has done to achieve certain effects. You should look at your first impressions and try to explain how the artwork achieves that reaction.

Now write your 'art critic' style article about the exhibition for this weeks newsletter.

- Write down what you saw, if you liked it why you liked it and if you didn't like it why you didn't like it.
- Vocabulary – Some Adjectives to help you are listed in the last activity.

Activity Eight – Back at the Center – Research.

With your group. Research the major art movements.

Activity Nine – techniques – Your turn to paint – chose a style.

Activity Ten. Art News. New talent in the art world!

Vote for the best three pictures, scan then and write articles for the newsletter reviewing your choices. Use the critique style method agai n.

