

GARGOYLES AND GROTESQUES: IMAGES THROUGH THE AGES

Dear Educator,

Thank you for choosing the unit entitled *Gargoyles and Grotesques: Images Throughout the Ages*. This unit is designed to teach students of all ages to recognize gargoyles and grotesques, distinguish the difference between the two, and to appreciate these sculptures in their respective historical periods. This unit illustrates the work of the great American sculptor Frederick Hart and can be used in conjunction with his exhibition “Giving Form to Spirit,” which will take place on September 5th and run through Thanksgiving at the University of Louisville in Louisville, Kentucky.

Core Content Assessments:

Visual Arts

<p>AH-EP-2.4.1 Students will identify gargoyles and grotesques from the following cultures and periods.</p> <p>Cultures: Greek, Egyptian, Roman, Medieval and Modern.</p> <p>Periods: Classical Greece, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Roman, Medieval and Modern.</p>	<p>AH-04-2.4.1 Students will identify how gargoyles and grotesques have been a part of cultures and time periods throughout history.</p> <p>Cultures: Greek, Egyptian, Roman, Medieval and Modern.</p> <p>Similarities and differences in the use of gargoyles and grotesques and elements of art and principles of design among cultures (e.g. how figures and structures are used and for what purpose), media in relation to these cultures.</p> <p>Periods: Classical Greece Their initial influence, as being the forerunning influence for all cultures concerning gargoyles and grotesques.</p> <p>Medieval Still heavily influenced by the past but have introduced humorous gargoyles and grotesques for decorative purposes.</p> <p>Modern Are using gargoyles and grotesques for purely decorative purposes but are still representing past cultures and beliefs.</p>	<p>AH-05-2.4.1 Students will describe or explain how gargoyles and grotesques have been a part of cultures and time periods throughout history.</p> <p>Cultures: Greek, Egyptian, Roman, Medieval and Modern.</p> <p>Similarities and differences in the use of gargoyles and grotesques and elements of art and principles of design among cultures (e.g. how figures and structures are used and for what purpose), media in relation to these cultures.</p> <p>Periods: Classical Greece Their initial influence, as being the forerunning influence for all cultures concerning gargoyles and grotesques.</p> <p>Medieval Still heavily influenced by the past but have introduced humorous gargoyles and grotesques for decorative purposes.</p> <p>Modern Are using gargoyles and grotesques for purely decorative purposes but are still representing past cultures and beliefs.</p>
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<p>AH-06-2.4.1 Students will analyze or explain how diverse cultures and time periods are reflected in gargoyles and grotesques.</p> <p>Cultures: Greek – Heavily influenced by the use of stone.</p> <p>Medieval – Different images introduced by the abundance of beliefs (Introduction of Christianity still intertwined with Ancient Polytheism).</p> <p>Modern – Introduction of modern beliefs, themes and motifs.</p>	<p>AH-07-2.4.1 Students will analyze or explain how diverse cultures and time periods are reflected in gargoyles and grotesques.</p> <p>Periods: Classical Greece – Presents the universal ideal of beauty through logic, order, reason and moderation. The main influence for all periods and cultures beyond this time period.</p> <p>Ancient Egypt – Monumental structures (e.g., pyramid, sphinx), visual arts reflect religion and belief in immortality.</p> <p>Ancient Roman – Continuation of Classical Greek traditions in the arts and advancement in architecture (Pantheon, Coliseum, arch, vault, dome).</p> <p>Medieval – Appeals to emotions and stresses the importance of religion (Gothic and Romanesque architecture, basic characteristics and influence of Roman techniques).</p> <p>Modern – Includes the past and pioneers new themes and motifs.</p>	<p>AH-08-2.4.1 Students will analyze or explain how diverse cultures and time periods are reflected in gargoyles and grotesques.</p> <p>Cultures/Period: Classical Greece through Modern – Gargoyles and grotesques were heavily influenced by religion and beliefs and this is reflected by their respective time periods.</p> <p>Tympanums began to reflect more Christianized figures and themes after Medieval period.</p> <p>The development of film, other media and societal figures influence modern themes and motifs that impact visual art (e.g., Darth Vader, Rockefeller, etc.).</p>
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AH-HS-2.4.1

Students will analyze or evaluate how factors such as time, place, and ideas are reflected in gargoyles and grotesques.

Medieval gargoyles and grotesques examples in churches reflecting past time periods and cultures (Gothic Architecture – e.g., Chartres, Canterbury Cathedral, Reims Cathedral, Notre Dame de Paris, etc.)

A plethora of motifs recounting the past and current trends in religion (the basilisk, the chimeres, God, the devil, etc.).

The introduction of Gargoyles to society and the many motifs they represented (gargoyles vs. grotesques: the similarities and the differences; gargoyle uses and “possible” symbolic representations; examples of gargoyles and how they represent their respective time period).

Historical Periods and Styles: (in chronological order)

Classical Greece (Sculptures, Columns, Temples, etc.)

Ancient Egypt (Sculptures, Colossi of Memnon, The Sphinx, Obelisks, Abu Simbel, etc.)

Ancient Roman (Sculptures, Temples, Mount Auxious 160 AD, etc.)

Medieval (Chartres, Canterbury Cathedral, Reims Cathedral, Notre Dame de Paris, etc.)

Modern (Famous subjects: Rockefeller, Presidents, etc., Media icon: Darth Vader – reflects the impact of movies on modern society.)

Presentation:

*** Run PowerPoint Presentation**

Postscript:

I hope you have enjoyed the unit entitled *Gargoyles and Grotesques: Images Throughout the Ages*. This unit fulfills Kentucky Core Content for Arts and Humanities Assessment 2.4.1. In addition, to one’s surprise, the majority of gargoyles and grotesques used in this presentation are located in Louisville, Kentucky. Therefore, the next time you are in or around downtown Louisville, raise your eyes to the top of buildings—or you may never know what might be looking down on you. Joshua Gentry 2007