



Gr. 8-9: The Science of Fresco Painting

Explore and understand the science of fresco painting in ancient Rome. Discover the history behind the art and learn what minerals and chemicals ancient Romans used to paint with.

Summary

Outcome (Sask. Cur)	Grade 7 Arts Education CP7.10, CR 7.1, CR 7.3; Science EC 7.1 Grade 8 Arts Education CR 8.5 Grade 9 Arts Education CR 9.1
Subtopics or Key Concepts	Visual art, time and place, environmental impacts, inquiry, create.

Materials Needed

- ☐ Teacher Pack
- ☐ PowerPoint Presentation: The Science of Fresco Painting
- ☐ Activity (below)
- ☐ Additional resources

Learning Objectives

Students will begin to understand and respond to the visual art form of frescoes from ancient Rome and explore the techniques used to make them.

*Students will be able to apply their knowledge and create their own frescoes using plaster, minerals and pigments.

Lesson Outline

Duration	Guide	Remarks
5 minutes	Create a mind map of any terms, questions, or facts that students know about Roman frescoes.	What is a fresco? How was it made? Who made it? Rome, painting, plaster, Pompeii
10 minutes	The Science of Fresco Painting PowerPoint.	
10 minutes	Discussion about Fresco Paintings	Discussion prompts found below.
5 minutes	Explanation of Activity	
30 minutes	Independent Activity	
45 minute	Museum of Antiquities Tour	Optional (Tour Guide found below)

Additional Information

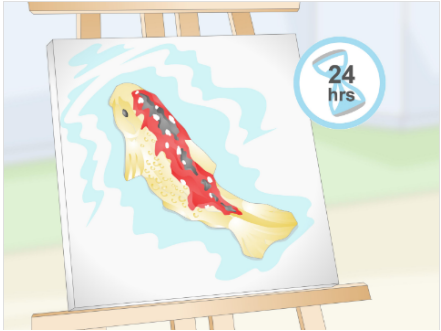
Discussion Questions:

- Are you impressed with how detailed the frescoes are? Impressed with how well preserved they are?
- Frescoes can also be found much later in history, including during the Renaissance. Why do you think frescoes remained popular?
- What are some challenges or benefits in preserving frescoes?
- How do frescoes reflect the culture and history where they were created?

Activity:

- Recreate fresco painting from Pompeii using water colors
- Create own fresco using Plaster of Paris plaque
- Create own fresco using canvas and Plaster of Paris

Note: Dry plaster should only be handled by adults with proper safety equipment.

Option 1: Water Colors	Option 2: Plaque	Option 3: Plaster Painting
<p>Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> water color paint <input type="checkbox"/> water color paper <input type="checkbox"/> images for students to study/recreate <p>Students can either recreate or use as inspiration the frescos found at Pompeii.</p>	<p>This activity can be done at the Museum as a workshop or in the classroom.</p> <p>Prep in advance (if in the classroom): Teacher/Adult only, should be done at least 24 hours in advance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Create plaques using molds and plaster of Paris. (Instructions here - use method 2 and silicon molds) <p>Materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Plaques <input type="checkbox"/> Water <input type="checkbox"/> Paint <input type="checkbox"/> Paint brush <input type="checkbox"/> Small sponges <p>Instructions:</p> <p>Each student gets their own plaque. Using a paint brush or sponge coat the plaque with water. Then, using any color paint, create your design.</p> <p>Students can use the frescoes at Pompeii for inspiration.</p>	<p>Instructions can be found here: Click the image or this link.</p>  <p>Materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Pin or needle <input type="checkbox"/> Canvas <input type="checkbox"/> Charcoal <input type="checkbox"/> Paint <input type="checkbox"/> Plaster of Paris (teacher only mixes) <input type="checkbox"/> Spackling knife/plasterer's trowel <input type="checkbox"/> Paint brushes

Tour Guide:

- Grade 6 ELA CR6.5, CC 6.6-6.5; Grade 7 ELA CR 7.5, CC 7.6; Grade 8 ELA CR 8.5
- Active Listening, follow instructions, complete tasks, summarize and paraphrase, ask questions related to the oral presentation
- Tour guide worksheet optional (students could bring own notebook).
- Tour of gallery artifacts related to Roman history and frescoes (Villa of the Mysteries).

Assessment Guide:

- Formative Assessment: Observations and Participation during PowerPoint lesson and discussion afterwards
- Assessment of Activity
- Students can summarize or paraphrase what was learned during the tour and the PowerPoint in an end-of-lesson activity (e.g., informational brochure, personal reflection, informational paper, descriptive narrative, presentation).

Key Terms and Additional Resources related to this module can be found on the Museum of Antiquities' Website under K-12 Education, Grades 8-9, The Science of Fresco Painting.