

AP Art History
Chapter 2 – The Art of the Ancient Near East
Homework Assignment

Due Date: _____

I. Sumerian Art

A. Terms; define/identify:

- a. cuneiform:

- b. cylinder seal:

- c. Gilgamesh:

- d. heraldic composition:

B. Short Answer Questions:

1. In what way did Sumerian city plans reflect their religious beliefs? What materials did they use? How was it oriented? What is meant by the “bent-axis” approach?
2. The Warka vase is the best known example of what kind of relief sculpture? What does it depict?
3. What underlying forms were used to create the votive statues shown on Fig. 2-5? What is the meaning of their hand gestures and oversized eyes?
4. One of the figures on the Stele of the Vultures (Fig. 2-7) is much taller than the others. What might this indicate?
5. Describe the subject and style of the Standard of Ur (Fig. 2-8). Discuss the style of the human figures and animals; relative sizes; any overlapping, etc. Are the figures an example of the “conceptual” or “optical” principal in ancient art? Explain.

II. Akkadian, Neo-Sumerian, Babylonian and Hittite Art

A. Short Answer Questions:

1. What new political idea was introduced by the Akkadians and how did they express it in their art?
2. List two features of the Stele of Naram-Sin (Fig. 2-13) that indicate his superhuman status.

3. What is the significance of the Stele of Hammurabi (Fig. 2-16)? Politically? Aesthetically (foreshortening?)?

III. Assyrian Art

A. Terms:

- a. citadel:

B. Short Answer Questions:

1. Look carefully at the reconstruction of the citadel of Sargon II (Fig. 2-20). What does the building tell us about the Assyrians and the land in which it was built? Consider walls, fortifications, symmetrical layout, etc. Was it built over a long period of time? By a single person? What feature would indicate that it was constructed in Mesopotamia?

IV. Neo-Babylonian and Persian Art

A. Terms:

- a. barrel vault:

- b. repousee:

B. Short Answer Questions

1. The Ishtar Gate built in Babylon (Fig. 2-25) was created and covered with what materials? What motifs were used to decorate it?
2. The great palace at Persepolis was built to symbolize Persian imperial power. The architects created a powerful combination of architectural and sculptural elements from which cultures of the time period? List four architectural features of the palace.

V. Discussion Questions (short essays; 3-5 sentences minimum)

1. How did the **religion** practiced by Sumerians differ from that practiced by Paleolithic hunters and how were those religions **reflected** in art? What was the **relationship** between religion **and** the state or government in ancient Sumer?
2. How does the artwork shown in this chapter **reflect** the changing religious and political ideas of the Ancient Near East? (think: Victory Stele of Naram Sin, Stele of Hammurabi, Assyrian Archers Pursuing their Enemies, Ambassadors Bringing Gifts...)