

The Islamic Unit Plan: Chapter 9 *Art Across Time* Lauras Schneider

Context:

Umayyad Syria and Abbasid Iraq, 661-1258

- The Umayyad (r. 661-750) were the first Islamic dynasty and ruled from Damascus until they were overthrown by the Abbasids (r. 750-1258), whose capital was Baghdad.
- Dome of the Rock, first great Islamic monument,
 - Octagonal
 - Commemorated the triumph of Islam
 - In Jerusalem, after the Muslims capture in 638
- Umayyad and Abbasid mosques are *hypostyle-hall*, with arcaded courtyards and *minarets*. Byzantines artists continued to make mosaics for the early mosques but exclude *zoomorphism*.
- Earliest Qur'ans date to the 9th century with *Kufic calligraphy* and decorative motifs but no figural illustrations.

Islamic Spain, 756-1492

- After the Abbasid massacre Adb-al-Rahman I, began the Umayyad dynasty in Spain (r. 756-1013)
- Their capital was Córdoba, and the *caliphs* built the *Great Mosque*, (8th-10th Centuries), which featured *horseshoe* and *multibed* arches, mosaic-clad domes resting on *arcuated squinches*.
- Nasrid was the last Spanish Muslim dynasty (r. 1230 1492) the capital was Granada. *Alhambra* is the best example of Islamic palace architecture, with stuccoed walls, arches, and *muqarnas* vaults and domes.

Islamic Egypt, 909-1517

- *Caliphates* ruled from Cairo.
- Sultan Hassan, an ambitious patron, the *madrasa*-mosque,-mausoleum based on Iranian designs
- The Islamic metal smith's art of Muhammad ibs al-Zayns, brass basin inlaid with gold, silver, engraved with figure of Mamluk rulers and Mongol enemies is his best and most splendid work. Qur'an was finished in 935

Timurid and Safaavid Iran and central Asia, 1370-1732

- These two dynasties ruled for 400 years as grandiose patrons of the arts and architecture
- The Timurid (r. 1370-1501) employed the well known painters for illustrating books
- Persian paintings burgeoned as did royal carpet factories under Safaavid's rule (r. 1501-1732)
- Tile worked peaked under Safaavid, mosaics and *cureda seca* tiles covered mosques, madrasas, palaces and tombs.

Ottoman Turkey, 1280-1924

- Ottoman dynasty began with Osman I (r. 1281-1326), captured the Byzantine Empire in 1453.
- Sinan (c. 1491-1588), Ottoman architect perfected the domed central-plan mosque, and engineered the phenomenal Mosque of Selim II at Ederne, whose dome is taller than Hagia Sophia.

Vocabulary:

arabesque

cloisonné

iwan

Kufic

madrasah

mihrāb

minbar

mosque

sahn

scriptorium

Ideas and Concepts. Be sure to cite at least on work of art per period.

1. Why did Islam established itself as a major player in world history so quickly?
2. What are the *Five Pillars of Islam*?
3. How are they akin to Judaism and Christianity?
4. Explain why the abstract decorative impulses of Islamic art nurtured the recurrent Islamic reluctance to depict fauna.
5. Describe the three basic types of mosques.

Northern European Early Middle Ages Context: Chapter 9 Continued

Migratory 4th century- Visigoths sack Rome giving independence to Northern European peoples, Northern movement of Asiatic Huns, migration of the “barbarians”

Anglo Saxon 6th century- Roman art and architecture destroyed by vandals

Hiberno Saxon 5th Century-8th Century –Ireland, Saint Patrick who brought Christianity during the fifth century. Irish Monasteries were sanctuaries for European Scholars. Missionaries brought Christianity to all the British Isles. (*Hibernia* is Latin for Ireland)

Carolingian 8th Century-Rise of monastic order, founding of the Benedictine Order, emphasis on work/manual labor and study/copying of sacred texts, called *Scriptoria*. Charlemagne consolidates most of Europe and initiated schools with an emphasis on Latin.

Vikings 9th Century- inhabit Iceland and invade England

Ottonian 10th Century- Three rulers named Otto who created peace after the turmoil of Charlemagne’s death. Their empire was much less significant than Charlemagne’s Empire and included northern Italy and Germany.

Key terms:

Gilding

Picture Stone

Enamel

Interlace

Manuscript

Refectory

Rune stone

Westwork

qiblarune stone

Ideas and Concepts. Be sure to cite at least on work of art per period.

1. Early Middle ages is a transition from what period to what period?
2. Identify the civilization that is in the process of taking shape.
3. Describe the rich material out of which this new civilization will be fashioned.
4. Describe the circumstances, techniques, and meanings of Hiberno-Saxon manuscript illumination.
5. What connects this new civilization to the past?
6. How did it provide an environment for new directions in art?
7. On the map identify ancient territories beneath and label the modern states.
8. Describe the vastness of the vacuum created by the departure of Rome.
9. Identify the consequence of Charlemagne's decision to resurrect the "Roman Empire," and the new values produced with the triumph of Christianity of Western Europe.

