**Roman Paintings and Murals Unit Plan**

**Context:** *Art Across Time:* Chapter Seven; Mural Paintings and Portraiture

**Historical:**

**Republic (753-27 BCE):** Romulus and Remus founded Rome in 753 BCE; Ruled by Etruscan Kings in the 6th Century; Rome conquered its neighbors and Greece; Romans pioneered the use of concrete; Republican portraits were veristic likenesses of elderly patrician and celebrated Roman values.

**Early Empire (27 BCE to 96 CE):** Augustus; (r. 27 BCE to 14 CE); became the first Roman emperor after defeating Marc Antony and Cleopatra at Atrium in 31 BCE; Classical style was revived with references to Periclean Athens; Augustus ambitious buildings used lavish marble and his portraits depicted him and his wife as idealized youth; Under the Julio-Claudians (r. 14-68 CE) concrete’s full potential was evident; The Flavian emperors (r. 69-96 CE) erected the Colosseum; monuments,and arches celebrating their victory in Judaea;

Pompeii and Herculaneum were buried in 79 CE during the eruption of Mount Vesuvius

**High Empire (96-192 CE):** During the last 25 years before Vesuvius erupted the Third and Fourth Styles were introduced; Roman Empire reached its greatest extent under Trajan (r. 98-117 CE) Apollodorus’ forum and markets transformed the civic center of Rome; Hadrian (r. 117-138 CE) built the Pantheon, a triumph of concrete technology; Under the Antonines (r. 138-192) Classical art began to erode, new compositions schemes in relief sculpture and psychological elements in portraiture were introduced

**Late Empire (193-337):** Severans (r. 193-235) the Late Antique style took root. Artists presented the emperor as a central frontal figure disengaged from the action around him, *Caracalla’s Bust*; During the chaotic Soldier Emperors (r. 235-284) artists revealed the anxiety and insecurity of the emperors, *Marcus Aurelius on a Horse;*

Diocletian (r. 284-305) established the tetrarchy, The four rulers are depicted as identical equal rulers, not as individuals; Constantine (r. 306-307) restored the one man rule, ended persecution of Christians, transferred the capital to Constantinople in 330, paved the way for iconic art of the Middle Ages.

**Technique**: First, Second, Third, and Fourth Style of paintings in Rome follow and overlap the four periods of Roman History. These painting schemes have been refined and modified in detail but still serve as the basis for the study of Roman painting.

**Works of Art:**

1. Wall painting in the fauces of the Samnite house, Herculaneum, Italy, late second century BCE
2. View of the frescoes at the Villa of the Mysteries near Pompeii, Second Style, c. 65-50 BCE
3. Second Style, Bedroom in the Villa of Publius Fannius Synistor, from Boscoreale, outside Pompeii, c. 50-40 BCE
4. Details of the wall from the Villa of Pulius Fannius Synistor
5. *Odysseus Being Attacked by the Laestrygonians*, from the Esquiline Hill, Rome, c. 50-40 BCE
6. Third Style wall painting, from cubiculum 15 of The Villa of Agrippa Postumus, Boscotrecase, Italy, c. 10 BCE
7. View of *Hercules Strangling the Serpents* in situ; House of Vettii, Pompeii; 63-79 CE
8. *Young Woman with a Stylus*, (or Sappho), from Pompeii, 1st Century CE
9. *Landscape with Boats*; from Pompeii, Third Style, 1st Century CE
10. *Still Life of Silver Objects*, from the tomb of Vestorius Priscus, Pompeii, 75-76 CE
11. *Portrait of a husband and wife*, wall painting from House VII,2,6, Pompeii, Italy c. 70-79 CE

**Vocabulary:**

First Style

Second Style

Third Style

Fourth Style

Fauces

Buon Fresco

Maenads

Satyr

Cubiculum

Peristyle

Tholos

Pastiche

Linear perspective

Skenographia

Laestrygonians

Atmospheric Perspective

Or Aerial perspective

Monochromatic

Motif

Revetment

Iconography

*in situ*

Fictive

Tondo

Highlights

imago ( pl. imagines)

stylus

**Ideas and Concepts:**

1. Describe the Roman painting styles and the types of subjects depicted, and list one painting from each style.
2. Discuss the use of political iconography in Roman art
3. Identify the authors mentioned in the chapter; discuss what they wrote, and its relevance to Roman art.
4. Discuss the purpose of portraiture in both paintings and sculptures, per art style.
5. Explain why Roman put numerous murals in their homes.
6. Discuss why Roman history affected Roman Art. Be sure to use examples and support your findings.

**Due Date: \_\_\_\_November 10\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**