Art of the Etruscans Chapter Chapter Six-- Art Across Time

**Context:**

**History:** Etruscan culture developed in northern and central Italy after c. 800 BCE and was preceded by the Villanovan culture, the earliest Iron Age culture of central and northern Italy.

**Geography:** The Etruscans gave way in the 7th century to an increasingly orientalizing culture that was influenced by Greek traders and Greek neighbors of southern Italy. The Etruscan civilization flourished in Etruria and the Po valley in the northern part of what is now Italy, prior to the arrival of Gauls in the Po valley and the formation of the Roman Republic.

**Politics:** The Etruscans existed as a separate city state and never established an empire

**Women’s role in Etruria**: Inscriptions on mirrors and other art indicate that women were taught to read. Etruscans had a positive attitude toward women and their innate abilities. The women participated in public life with their husbands. They held higher position than women in Greece. Wealthy Etruscan women were fashion conscience and wore elaborate jewelry depending on their status. The Greek patriarchal society vigorously disapproved.

**Language: •** Language resembles none other and its origin is uncertain; Written from right to left; Alphabet derived from the Phoenicians; Similar to the Phoenician script; Literature has all but disappeared and was known to be rich and extensive; Surviving script is in epitaphs, graves, and religious text.

**Works of Art:**

Reconstruction of the Temple of Apollo at Veii c. 515-490 BCE Etruscan Architecture

Capitoline Wolf, c. 500 BCE, Villanovan Period

Wounded Chimera, Second quarter of the fourth century BCE, Villanovan period

Apollo of Veii, from Veii c. 515 BCE

Mars of Todi, Early 4th century BCE, from North of Rome

Scene and diagram from the back of a mirror from Volterra showing Uni (Hera) nursing Herakles in the presence of other gods, c. 300 BCE, Etruscan

Cinerary Urn, from Chiusi, 7th century BCE, Etruscan

Mater Matuta,from Chianciano, near Chiusi, 460-440 BCE, Etruscan

Sarcophagus from Cerveteri , c. 520 BCE, Etruscan

Sarcophagus of Ramtha Visnai, from Vulci. c. 300-280 BCE, Etruscan

Mourners at the Door of the Other World, Tomb of the Augurs, Tarquinia, c. 510 BCE, Etruscan Tomb

Tomb of the Leopards, Tarquinia c.480-470 BCE, Etruscan tombs

Etruscan Tombs, tumuli, from Cerveteri, c. 650-700 BCE

**Vocabulary:**gabled porches; Wattle and Daub construction; pronaos; necropolis; symposium; Capotoline Hill; Romulus and Remus; cinerary; tufa; Fresco secco; tempura; extended lintel; pilaster; tumulus (i);

**Ideas and Concepts:**

1. How is the role of women reflected in the Etruscan art?
2. Describe Etruscan funerary practices.
3. Describe the style and iconography of Etruscan Tomb paintings.
4. Discuss Etruscan architecture and the sources of this information.
5. Explain the meaning of the scene illustrated on the mirror, found in the grave of a woman.
6. How were the Etruscans similar to the Greeks and what were their differences.

**Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**