

Name:

Date:

Period:

Gardener's Notes

Unit 10 - Chapter 16: Early Medieval Art

After the collapse of the Roman Empire, Western Europe entered what is known as the Dark Ages. Power became decentralized, dispersed among various nomadic tribes. Trade among towns and outposts collapsed because the Roman legions were no longer present to maintain order. When comparing the art produced during early medieval times with the many achievements of the Roman Empire, it is obvious why historians first labeled the period the Dark Ages. However, recent discoveries and scholarship have uncovered works of art and architecture that reveal the presence of rich cultures between the years 500 and 1000 CE.

For the AP Art History exam, the early Middle Ages includes four stages: (1) Art of the Warrior Lords, (2) Hiberno-Saxon Art, (3) Carolingian Art, and (4) Ottonian Art. The 2004 exam contained a slide-based short essay comparing a picture of a purse cover from Sutton Hoo, a site during the Warrior Lord Period, to a carpet page from the *Lindisfarne Gospels*, a Hiberno-Saxon illuminated manuscript. Past tests also required students to discuss the characteristics of Carolingian illuminated manuscript. Multiple-choice questions have tested student's recognition of a famous Ottonian church and its bronze doors.

Early Medieval art is grouped with Early Christian and Byzantine Art as 5 percent to 10 percent of the points on the AP Art History exam, which is a small percentage of the total points. Nonetheless, this chapter provides you with the necessary knowledge about the early Medieval period to prepare you for possible test questions.

1. Art of the Warrior-Lords

- a. Give one example of art from this period
- b. Why were the objects small?
- c. List 4 cultures from this period.

2. Sutton Hoo Ship Burial

- a. What is cloisonne?
- b. What is interlacing?
- c. What is the animal style?

3. *Hiberno-Saxon Art*

- a. What geographic area does this relate to?
- b. How is this art different from the Warrior Lords?
- c. Which figure changed the direction of art in this area?
- d. Which artwork is significant from this period? Why?

4. *Book of Kells*

- a. Describe how this work is a combination of the Warrior Lords period and the Hiberno-Saxon period?
- b. List a few of the recurring motifs during this period on the illuminated manuscripts?

5. *Carolingian Art*

- a. What were the most important results of Charlemagne's coronation as emperor?
- b. Compare Palatine Chapel with San Vitale.
- c. Compare two illuminated manuscripts.

6. Carolingian Architecture: Palatine Chapel

- a. Why is this structure significant?

7. Carolingian Basilicas

- a. What is westwork?
- b. Give an example of westwork.
- c. Why was Carolingian architecture important?

8. Ottonian Art

- a. Why was the emergence of Ottonian kings important to Europe?

9. *St. Michael's of Hildesheim*

- a. Describe interesting features of this church and how it is different from earlier churches.
- b. Describe the churches doors. What are the scenes? How does it use prefiguration? What process did the artist use to create these doors?
- c. Why is the church's bronze column important?

10. *Gero Crucifix*

- a. Describe the features of this sculpture.
- b. What purpose did the artist have for creating the crucifix in this way?

Additional Notes

Conclusion

Small portable constructions; abstract animal imagery; and elaborate interlacing designs are three important features of the Art of the Warrior Lords. All these elements are revealed in the Sutton Hoo purse cover, making it a fine piece to typify this artistic period.

Hiberno-Saxon Art is from Ireland and the British Isles. Like the Art of the Warrior Lords, Hiberno-Saxon Art contains interlaced patterns and abstract animal forms. However, Hiberno-Saxon Art is distinct because it reflects the rise of Christianity.

The Carolingian Period marks a significant time in art history. The first revival of Roman Art and architecture in the West since the fall of the Roman Empire occurred during the Carolingian Renaissance. The Carolingian Renaissance, though short, marked a trend of emulating elements of Classical art that was seen during the Ottonian Period of the tenth century, the Renaissance of the 15th and 16th centuries, and the Neoclassical period of the late eighteenth century.

Similar to the Carolingian Renaissance, Ottonian Art contains Christian narratives, Roman imagery and architecture, and elements of Byzantine Art.