

Summer Week 7 RE Lesson 1

Can I identify religious works of art
(Christianity)?

Today we are going to look at some impressive works of art that were created to reflect Christianity.

We will look at lots of different types of art, starting from a very long time ago!

As we look at the different works of art, think about the effort made to create them, especially when they were made in the past without the tools we have now.



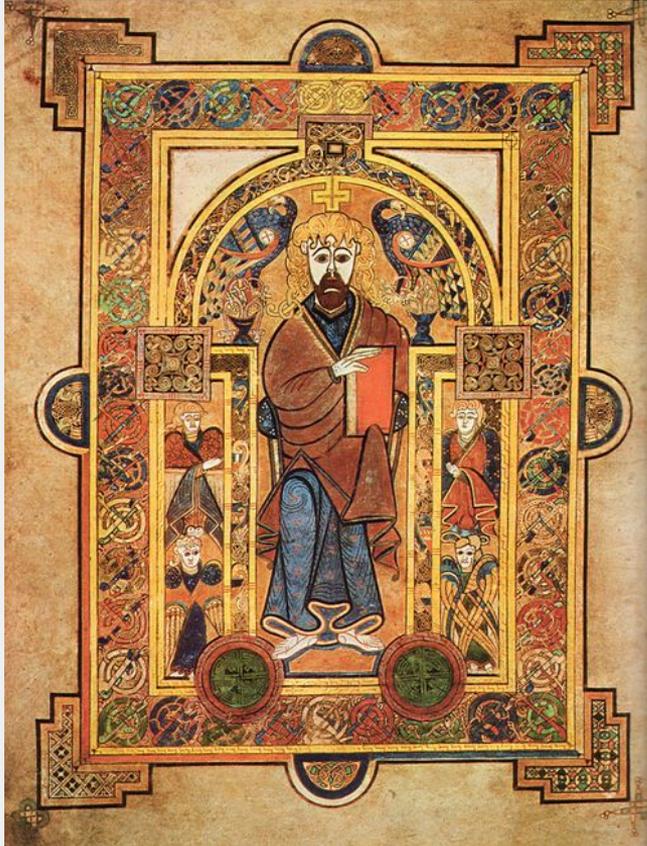
Why is art important for Christians?

Art is important in Christianity for many reasons:



- In the past, when most people could not read, paintings showed them what the stories of the Bible were about.
- Art was also used as a way for some artists to express faith and belief in God.
- Certain paintings or sculptures were meant to make the viewer think deeply about their faith and beliefs.

Book of Kells, 800 AD (**Over 1,200 years ago!**)



The Book of Kells was made by monks in medieval times. The illustrations help to show messages from the Christian gospel (stories from the Bible).

The pictures are impressive because the monks had to use tools to write on pages made on animal skin.

Today, the Book of Kells attracts half a million visitors each year and is a national treasure of Ireland.

St Wolfgang Altarpiece, 1480 (Over 500 years ago!)

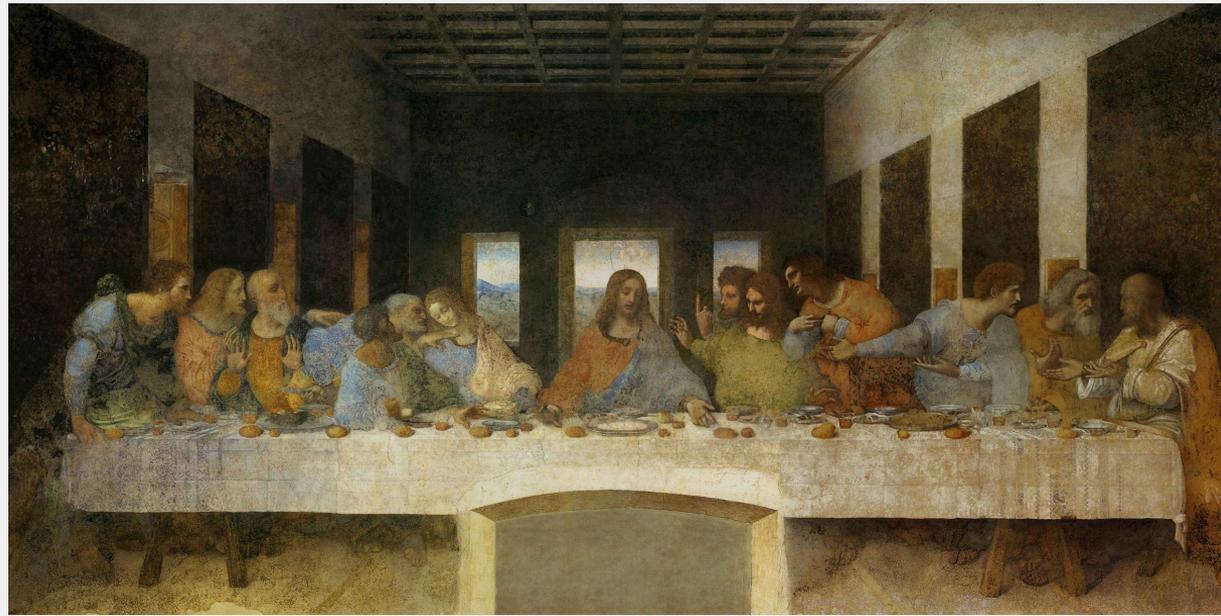
This famous altarpiece is found in a small village in Austria.

It is the end of a pilgrimage, somewhere hundreds of foreign visitors would travel across Europe to see.

The structure has movable pieces so different paintings can be displayed at different times.



The Last Supper
by Leonardo de
Vinci, 1495 (**Over
500 years ago!**)



The Last Supper is not found in a museum or church, but in a Catholic monastery dining hall in Milan, Italy.

It is a fresco, which means the artist painted the picture straight onto the wall. But Leonardo de Vinci did not use the standard techniques, so lots of work has been done to help make sure the fresco remains visible to visitors who wish to see it.

Sistine Chapel Ceiling by Michelangelo, 1508-1512



Over 5 million people come to visit this chapel in Rome each year to view the incredible paintings on the ceiling and walls.

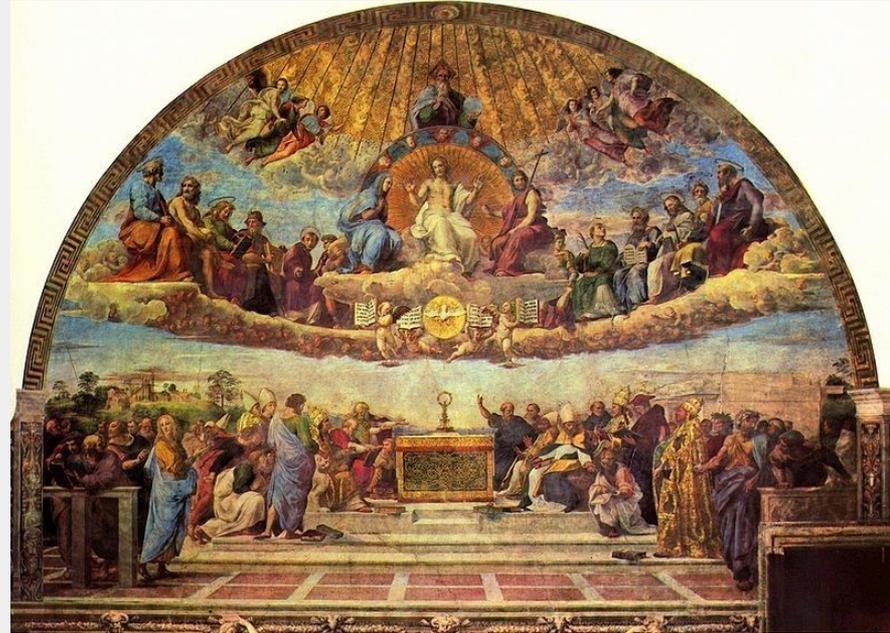
The paintings show Bible stories, starting with the Creation story and ending with Noah and the flood.

Michelangelo is one of the most famous artists in Christianity and he also made sculptures.

Disputation of the Holy Sacrament by Raphael, 1509-1511

This massive fresco shows the importance of Holy Communion (the act of eating bread and drinking wine) for Christians. This ties the people who believe in Christianity to heaven.

You can find it in the Apostolic Palace in Greece.



Pieta by Michelangelo, 1498



Pieta is one of the most famous sculptures made by Michelangelo (who also painted the Sistine Chapel Ceiling).

It shows the Christian story of the crucifixion. Mary holding her son Jesus after he has died.

It is found in Rome as well and is visited by millions of people each year.

Your activity

Write a paragraph about why Christians believe art is important and what artwork you like from today using the information you have learnt today.

Red: You will have gaps to fill in with information from today.

Yellow: You will have some extra questions to help you structure the paragraph.

Green: Write your paragraph answering the questions in as much detail as you can.