

Honolulu Museum of Art

Religion through Art

1.5 hrs

Grades 5-12

Date 7.29.13

Tour

Art can be an expression of religious beliefs and stories from around the world. Students will see art as visual communication for Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, Daoist, Islamic, and Shamanistic beliefs.

Religion:

the belief in and worship of a superhuman controlling power, esp. a personal God or gods

a "Cultural system";

narratives, symbols, traditions and sacred histories that are intended to give meaning to life or to explain the origin of life or the universe

*a **faith** or belief system, however, religion differs from private belief in that it has a public aspect*

Gallery Goal:

Students will understand how religious beliefs are depicted in art and how religious objects are used in ritual.

(For younger children, we need activities. The older students need looking directions.)

?Booklet?

Collection of religious images with myths and stories

Collect symbols in booklet for each religion (star of Miriam, chakra,

Enduring understandings and essential questions

Universally, humans believe in superhuman powers, develop ceremonies, and create treasured pieces to worship or use in ritual.
What objects do various each religions use? What do they have in common? How are they different?
What myths do they share? (creation of world)

Religions are - Monotheistic vs polytheistic

DOE Benchmarks

Social Studies

SS.3.6.3 Explain how cultural elements (e.g., language, art, music, stories, legends, and traditions) can change over time and explain possible reasons for that change

SS.4.6.1 Explain how language, traditional lore, music, dance, artifacts, traditional practices, beliefs, values, and behaviors are elements of culture and contribute to the preservation of culture

SS.6.3.4 Describe the key figures and major beliefs of the major religious and philosophical traditions of ancient and classical times, including Judaism, Confucianism, Daoism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Greek philosophy, Christianity, and Islam

SS.6.6.2 Use examples of changing culture to identify and analyze ways to respond to cultural differences and problems within and across groups (e.g., stereotyping, ethics)

Fine Arts

FA.4.1.4 Explain how art reflects life, culture, attitudes, and beliefs of the artist

FA.5.1.4	Explain how an original artwork demonstrates a concept or idea from another discipline
FA.5.1.5	Analyze works of art from selected historical periods

FA.6-8.1.7	Compare the characteristics of artwork from various historical periods and/or cultures
FA.6-8.1.8	Analyze, using evidence, how cultural factors have affected works of art now and in the past
FA.6-8.1.9	Analyze, using evidence, why specific works of art were created

FA.9-12.1.5	Create works of art that contain one or more symbols, themes, and metaphors
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FA.9-12.1.6	Evaluate the function of artwork in different cultures, careers, and historical periods
FA.9-12.1.7	Analyze common characteristics of works of art and artifacts across time periods and among cultural groups to identify influences

Suggested/Required works of art

Triptych

Tondo

Dainichi Buddha

Gandharan Buddha

Guan Yin

Nio figures

Hindu Stele

Ganesh

Chariot side and Nandi

Chinese tomb object

Islamic objects

Nias Ancestor figure/Philippino Bulu figure/Yam spirit

Gallery Rotations

#1

18 minutes

Gallery 2

#2

18 minutes

Gallery 11, 12, 25

#3

18 minutes

Gallery 24, 23

#4

18 minutes

Gallery 26

#5
18 minutes
Gallery 19

Activity with objects from lending – first or last???

Gallery 2

Tour Bag
?

Gallery 2 Goal

Understand that organized religions use icons and symbols to depict their beliefs

Art

Tondo
Triptych

Activity - ?Find the Saint, Religious figure?

Distribute cards with descriptions of specific person they have to find.

Blue dress, red cape, star on shoulder, halo = Mary
Monks robe, book, crutch = St Anthony

After they find the people, the docent talks about who they are

Discuss how are gold leaf paintings are created

Gallery 11, 12, 25

Tour Bag
?

Gallery Goal

Understand indigenous beliefs exist to explain nature and our world, and to empower or benefit the believers.

Art

False Face Mask
Yam mask
Bulu Rice god
Nias Ancestor figure

Activity -

Gallery 24, 23

Tour Bag

Gallery 23,24 Goal

Religious art exists to tell popular stories.
Understand religion as a means to explain problems of reincarnation,
death, and karma. (Older students)

Activities

Discuss the setting or temples where all the work is found
Indian art is relief sculpture, tells a story, carved into the living rock

Have them circumambulate around the linga – as if they are
inside a temple

Tell the story of Shiva and Ravenna

Discuss the festivals and chariots

Gallery 26

Tour Bag

Map
Photos of objects to find and analyze

Gallery 26 Goal

Recognize Islamic art as a secular cultural style as well as religious.

Activity -

Study map of Islamic world

Locate places where the art in the gallery is found

Discuss types of art that is Islamic – chest, lamp, books, rugs, clothing, shoes, brush holder, etc.

What do all the works of art have in common?

When looking at Islamic art, what do you think are the characteristics?

Discuss the characteristics of Islamic art.

Gallery 19

Tour Bag

Gallery 19 Goal

Understand visually the different types of deities by reading clues as to their purpose.

Be able to distinguish a Buddha from a bodhisattva.

Activity - Create a deity

What do the deities have in common?

Sort out cards with photos of types of faces, hands, eyes, faces, postures seen in religious sculptures. Have the students place them together to create a deity and add label.

Example:

Serene face, closed eyes, tidy hair, lotus posture, meditating hands = Buddha

Fierce face, bulging eyes, wild posture, armor, fierce hands = protective deity

Activity - Mudra

Discuss hand gestures as symbols to convey messages

Shaka

Victory

Peace

*#@^!

Pass out the laminated mudra cards from the tour bag

Ask each small group to see if they can find the mudra on their card

After they do, go around and discuss what each mudra means

Gallery 1 or 17 – *extra rotation when needed*

Gallery Goal

Art is for the next life – Taoist tomb treasures (mirrors, vessels, bi disks, hill jar, guardian figures)

Art is to hold the spirits in the next life - Egyptian relief, falcon cover, etc.

Tour Bag

Activity

Group Activity

Identify objects from Lending

Match objects to religion

Determine how each object is used.

Conclusion

What objects do various each religions use?

What do they have in common? How are they different?

What myths do different religions share?