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| The Classical Period covered the height of the Greek culture and the Roman Empire, from its rise to its fall, about 500 BCE to 500 CE. The people of these ancient societies developed many of the ideas that, today, make up our mathematics, science, literature, and art. | The Medieval Period in Europe, which lasted roughly from 500-1400 CE, was characterized by the rise of feudalism and the controlling power of the Catholic Church in people’s lives. | The Renaissance included a rebirth of interest in Classical culture. It began around 1350 and lasted until 1650. People rediscovered the writings and artworks of the Greeks and Romans, borrowed their ancient ideas, and combined them in new ways. |
| **Forms of Art:** sculpture, pottery, murals, mosaics | **Forms of Art:** stained-glass windows, sculptures, illuminated manuscripts, paintings, tapestries | **Forms of Art:** sculpture, murals, drawings, paintings |
| **Purposes:** to show the importance of people and leaders, as well as gods and goddesses | **Purposes:** to teach religion to people who cannot read or write | **Purposes:** to show the importance of people and nature, not just religion |
| **Characteristics of Classical Art:**   * Figures look idealized, perfect * Bodies are often nude or draped in togas * Faces are bland, calm, without emotion * Scenes and subjects show heroic figures or real people doing real tasks of daily life * Little background or sense of perspective (when distant objects look far away * Bodies look active, move convincingly * Disproportionate depictions of the human body in murals and mosaics | **Characteristics of Medieval Art:**   * Figures look flat and stiff with little real movement * Bodies are fully clothed, draped in stiff looking clothing * Faces are solemn with little emotion * Scenes and subjects show Biblical figures and leaders doings tasks to glorify God * Backgrounds a single color, often gold * Flat, frozen-looking two-dimensional figures of humans * Disproportionate depictions of the human body | **Characteristics of Renaissance Art:**   * Figures look idealized, perfect * Bodies may be nude or clothed * Faces are express what people are thinking * Scenes and subjects show religious, pagan and secular (non-religious) scenes * Full, deep backgrounds with perspective * Interest in nature, lots of natural detail, emphasis on the accuracy of nature and humans shown * Realistic and proportionate depictions of the human body * Paintings are symmetrical * Paintings look to emphasize chiaroscuro (colors respond to the light that falls on them) |