

Year 2 Firecrests

Art Summer 1

History Painting

What is History Painting?

History painting is a type of **art that tells a story**. These stories often come from **myths and legends**, **classical history** (ancient Greek or Roman stories), the **Bible** and **important historical events**. History paintings show a moment from a story using colour, line and composition, instead of words, to help the viewer understand what is happening.

Key Learning

Understanding Storytelling Through Art

Pupils explore how artists use:

Characters (people or animals involved in the story), setting (where the story takes place), actions and expressions to help communicate the narrative clearly.

Learning About Classical Myths

Children are introduced to stories from ancient Greek and Roman culture, such as *Ariadne Abandoned by Theseus* – Angelica Kauffman (1774) *Apollo and Daphne* – Antonio del Pollaiuolo (15th century)

These artworks help pupils see how artists have told dramatic stories through painting.

Looking Closely at Famous Paintings

Pupils study key features of history paintings, such as Dramatic poses, costumes that show the time period, symbolic objects (e.g., crowns, weapons, animals) and composition (how the artist arranges figures to emphasise the story).

Developing Art Skills

In this unit, children will observe artworks closely to identify story elements

Sketch characters and scenes inspired by mythology. Learn how to show emotion and action through drawing and painting. Begin to plan their own simple narrative artwork.

Key Vocabulary	Definition
history painting	Paintings that tell stories from myths, classical history and the bible.
myth	A traditional story made up in the past, often to explain an event, belief or custom.
mythological painting	Paintings relating to or based on myths.
classical	Something that is from ancient Greek or Roman culture.
narrative	A piece of art that tells a story with colour and lines, instead of words.
character	A person or an animal in a piece of narrative art.
characteristic	An important thing about thing or a person which makes them what they are.
setting	The place where a story takes place.
minotaur	A monster which is half bull and half man.

Key Artists

Angelica Kauffman



Antonio del Pollaiuolo

