Ancient Art and Architecture: Chapter 14
Earliest Centers of Civilization, 3500-1500 BCE

**Civilization**—term used to distinguish cultures, or composites of cultures, that have fairly **complex social orders** and relatively **high degrees of technical development**; key elements are food production through agriculture and animal husbandry, occupational specialization, writing and production of bronze. All of these developments were made possible by the **move to cooperative living in urban as well as agricultural communities**.
Art and Architecture of Ancient Egypt
Title: Great Pyramids, Giza (erected by Pharaohs Menkaure, Khafre, and Khufu)

Medium: granite and limestone

Culture: Ancient Egyptian
Title: Funerary Temple of Hatshepsut

Culture: Ancient Egyptian

Description: ramps and colonnades create an open form that facilitates royal displays of pageantry and that communicates more accessibility than Great Pyramid forms; Tomb cut into the rock wall is a remarkable union of nature and architecture
Title: Menkaure and Queen

Medium: stone (greywacke)

Culture: Ancient Egyptian

Description: Found in Pharaoh Menkaure’s tomb; it’s a funerary sculpture that functioned as a suitable home for the Pharaoh’s ka—his life force—ensuring the Pharaoh’s afterlife if his body was destroyed.
Title: Wall painting from the Tomb of Nebamun

Medium: paint on dry plaster

Culture: Ancient Egyptian

Description: Exhibits **hierarchic scale** - the biggest figure is the most important, in other words **sizes of human figures are determined by social rank**; the nobleman is the largest, his wife is smaller, his daughter smaller still. The nobleman Nebamun is either a nobleman or a high ranking official that was rich enough to commission a tomb like all the royals had ensuring that his ka-his life force- went on in the afterlife.
Art and Architecture of Mesopotamia
Title: Ziggurat
Location: Sumer city-state
Medium: red mud bricks
Culture: Mesopotamian (Ancient Near Eastern)
Description: a temple set on a huge platform
Title: The Great Lyre with Bull’s Head

Location: Sumer city-state

Culture: Mesopotamian (Ancient Near Eastern)

Description: panels depict scenes from the Epic of Gilgamesh, the first ever literary text which written in cuneiform; the Sumerians invented writing called cuneiform
Title: Akkadian Ruler
Location: Akkad city-state
Culture: Mesopotamian (Ancient Near Eastern)
The Classical West: Greek Art and Architecture (Chapter 15)

Archaic period= early period in Greek art in which they assimilated influences from Egypt and the Near East.

Classical period= specifically 480-323 BCE in Greece.

Classical art of Greece and Rome, which is defined as the Classical West, emphasizes rational simplicity, order, and restrained emotion. Sculpture becomes increasingly naturalistic in its presentation of the human form and anatomy and idealized, perfect, and began to show the body as alive and capable of movement.

Hellenistic period= late Greek art that is more expressive and dramatic than classical art and frequently shows exaggerated movement, not balanced and ordered movement.
Title: Met Kouros
Culture: Greek
Period: Archaic
Medium: marble
Title: Parthenon
Culture: Greek
Period: Classical
Medium: marble
This statue embodies a system of proportion and perfect dynamic balance that has come to stand for the idealistic nature of the High Classical period generally. The original's influence was great from the moment of its creation, as seems to have been the intent of its sculptor.
Title: Venus de Medici
Culture: Greek
Medium: marble

Description: Figure’s sensuality and eroticism, a mortal and base element foreign to classical idealism, means this is a late Classical work and is suggestive of the later Hellenistic period
Title: Laocoon and his Sons
Culture: Greek
Period: Hellenistic
Medium: marble
The Classical West: Roman Art and Architecture
(Chapter 15)
Title: Head of an Old Man

Culture: Roman

Medium: marble

Description: accurate portraiture style which emerged from the wax death mask custom of making wax casts of the deceased person’s head for the family shrine; this style enabled great individuality and the sculptures were recognizable, not idealized
Vault - curving ceiling or roof structure made of bricks or blocks of stone tightly fitted to form a unified shell; Roman builders perfected the round arch and developed the groin vault, formed by the intersection of two barrel vaults.

Round arch - semicircular arch made with wedge-shaped stones fitted together with joints at right angles; it uses a keystone, final stone set in place at the top creating a continuous arch with load-bearing capacity.

Semicircular round arch - when extended in depth, it creates a tunnel-like structure called a barrel vault.

A series of arches supported by columns form an arcade.

Title: Pont du Gard
Culture: Roman
Medium: limestone and concrete
Description: aqueduct

Title: Colosseum
Culture: Roman
Medium: concrete, brick, stone
Description: arena for gladiator events that could hold 50,000 people
Title: Pantheon
Culture: Roman
Medium: concrete and marble

Dome dominates the Pantheon
Early Christian Art

and

Byzantine Art, also called the Art of Constantinople

(Chapter 15)
Title: Head of Constantine
Location: Rome
Culture: Late Antiquity/Early Christian
Medium: marble
Title: Old St. Peter’s Basilica
Location: Rome
Culture: Late Antiquity/Early Christian
Title: Church of San Vitale
Culture: Byzantine
Title: Church of San Vitale (interior view of apse, where the altar is)
Culture: Byzantine
Medium: mosaic
Title: Empress Theodora in the Church of San Vitale
Culture: Byzantine
Medium: mosaic
Title: Madonna and Child on a Curved Throne
Culture: Byzantine
Medium: Tempera on panel, gold leaf, lapis lazuli
Description: Icon, a devotional image
The Medieval West:
The Middle Ages in Europe

Early Medieval Art
(Chapter 15)
Title: Purse cover, from the Sutton Hoo Burial Ship
Culture: Early Medieval
Medium: gold and enamel
Title: Chi-Rho Monogram Page from the Book of Kells
Culture: Early Medieval
Medium: Illustrated Christian manuscript
Description: Initial page- opening of St. Matthew's account of Nativity
The Medieval West: 
The Middle Ages in Europe 

Romanesque and Gothic Art and Architecture 
(Chapter 15)
Title: Christ of the Pentecost

Medium: stone relief sculpture above church entrance

Location: Saint Madeleine Cathedral, France

Culture: Romanesque Middle Ages, which refers to all medieval art of Western Europe from the mid 11th to mid 12th centuries

Description: Romanesque initially referred to European Christian architecture that revived Roman principles of construction, namely the round arch and barrel vault
Title: Notre Dame de Chartres, also called Chartres Cathedral

Location: Chartres, France (not in Paris, it’s ~30 miles outside Paris)

Culture: Gothic Middle Ages, which refers to the European Christian architectural style whose pointed arch superseded the Romanesque round arch

Description: light filled upward reaching structures symbolized transcendence up into the heavens, a triumph of the spirit over the bonds of earthly life
Title: Tree of Jesse
Location: Chartres Cathedral, Chartres, France
Medium: stained glass window
Culture: Gothic Middle Ages

Title: Rose de France
Location: Chartres Cathedral, Chartres, France
Medium: stained glass window
Culture: Gothic Middle Ages
Title: Jamb figure, Old Testament King
Location: Chartres Cathedral, Chartres, France
Period: Gothic Middle Ages
Medium: stone