

Ceramics

Name: _____

Art

Date: _____ Class Block: _____

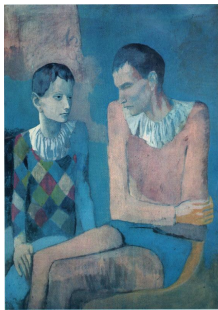
PABLO PICASSO & CUBISM



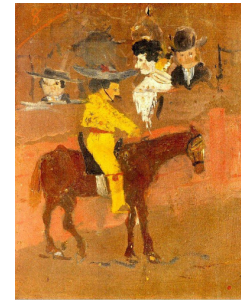
Perhaps there is no artist more widely known than Pablo Picasso. Picasso is primarily known for his painting; however, he did use clay as a medium for expression in his later years. Picasso's mother, Maria Ruiz Picasso, had been praying for a son for some time. Pablo Ruiz Picasso was born on October 25, 1881, in Malaga Spain. He was the first born to Don José Ruíz and María Picasso (Richardson, 2009). His father is remembered as an unsuccessful artist; however, he was a very good art teacher who took time to foster an appreciation for art in the young Picasso. Pablo's first word was "lapiz", which is the Spanish word for pencil. Pablo began to sign his work with his mother's name Picasso, at an early age, rather than his father's, Ruíz, which is a very common Spanish name. He felt that he was anything but ordinary. Pablo liked the name Picasso, which comes from the Spanish word "pique", meaning, "to arouse or provoke". The name Picasso would become a common household name and would accompany him to global fame as he became the first living celebrity artist (Beek & Bazalgette, 2010).

Picasso's ascension to the status of celebrity artist happened rather quickly. His first oil painting, done when he was only eight years old, was of a bullfighter. When

Picasso was sixteen, his father sent him to The Madrid School of



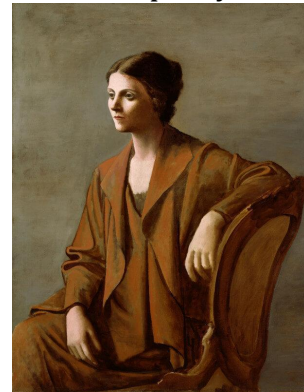
Arts where he studied great classical painters. Picasso was drawn to Spanish painter Diego Velázquez and made several successful copies of his works. Feeling that he had gleaned everything that the school could offer him, he became bored with his education and decided to return to his father in 1899. His father was then a professor in Barcelona. He continued his studies there before moving to Paris at nineteen years of age. Witnessing the violent suicide of a close friend in 1901 devastated Picasso. He began to paint in an unconventional style. This began his Blue Period,



which is widely known as his first major breakthrough. This was the beginning of Picasso's rise to artistic fame (Beek, 2010). He went on to produce some of the most widely known and most valued paintings in the world. He and his friend Georges Braque developed a new style, known as Cubism, in 1907. Cubism involved tearing down the subject to the bare elements and putting them back together with multiple viewpoints. The two thought it more important to communicate how they thought and felt about a subject than to represent the subject itself (Beek & Bazalgette, 2010).



In 1914, World War I began to devastate and obliterate many European cities. Tanks, planes, and other technological instruments of war brought carnage to the landscape. By the end of World War I, people were weary with destruction and yearned for order, safety, and simplicity. In light of this, Picasso and other painters of the day participated in a movement called Return To Order. The movement is characterized by a harmony achieved by natural depictions of subjects in a style reminiscent of Classical Greek or Roman styles of painting and architecture. Order was restored for a brief period before World War II presented yet another issue that Picasso had to grapple with. The Neo Classical style of painting that was popularized by the Return to Order movement became associated with the Nazis. The Germans held the market on Neo Classical architecture and paintings. The Nazis had tarnished the classical styles of art in the eyes of a world that hated them for the death and destruction they were causing. In response, Picasso focused on reuniting with the earth and getting away from materialism through craft. He advocated for peace, and not war, and made a conscious decision to simplify his life. (Nasher Sculpture Center, 2015).



At this point Picasso returns to Cubism. Here is a little info on the movement from a great online source (Tate.org.U.K.):

Cubism was one of the most influential styles of the twentieth century. It is generally agreed to have begun around 1907 with Picasso's celebrated painting *Demoiselles D'Avignon* which included elements of cubist style. The name 'cubism' seems to have derived from a comment made by the critic Louis Vauxcelles who, on seeing some of Georges Braque's paintings exhibited in Paris in 1908, described them as reducing everything to 'geometric outlines, to cubes'.

Cubism opened up almost infinite new possibilities for the treatment of visual reality in art and was the starting point for many later abstract styles including constructivism and neo-plasticism.

By breaking objects and figures down into distinct areas – or planes – the artists aimed to show different viewpoints at the same time and within the same space and so suggest their three dimensional form. In doing so they also emphasized the two-dimensional flatness of the canvas instead of creating the illusion of depth. This marked a revolutionary break with the European tradition of creating the illusion of real space from a fixed viewpoint using devices such as linear perspective, which had dominated representation from the Renaissance onwards.

Cubism was partly influenced by the late work of artist Paul Cézanne in which he can be seen to be painting things from slightly different points of view. Pablo Picasso was also inspired by African tribal masks which are highly stylised, or non-naturalistic, but nevertheless present a vivid human image. 'A head', said Picasso, 'is a matter of eyes, nose, mouth, which can be distributed in any way you like' .

Picasso sought self-renewal that he found only through the act of reconstructing a reality of his own through his art. Picasso loved to be in the moment, following his impulses and creating art that would redefine his reality by bridging the chasm between inner subconscious and the visual reality that all humans share in the real world(McCully, 1999).

Picasso's disdain for truth derived from his objections to societal realms that he felt were wrong. He empathetically saw the suffering, and pain of the world around him and could not help but confront what he felt was to blame (Nasher Sculpture Center, 2015).

Picasso's message was not a specific declaration or suggested virtue of which he felt all should take heed. Instead, it was a response to the strife and heartache of his time. He connected with the human condition and made his work as a representation of the condition he saw in the world around him. Arianna Huffington, author of *Picasso: Creator and Destroyer*, when talking about Picasso's legacy, said, "He was, in fact, a time-bound genius, a seismograph.



1. When and where was Picasso born?
2. What was Picasso's first word?
3. Why did Picasso prefer using his mother's name instead of his father's last name Ruiz?
4. How old was Picasso when he completed his first oil painting? What was it of?
5. What was Picasso's father's profession?
6. Where did Picasso move when he was 19?
7. How did Picasso respond to witnessing the suicide of a close friend?
8. Who did Picasso develop cubism with?
9. How could you say cubism was a response to what was going on in the world?
10. Create your own piece of cubism art.

Creating your own PICASSO & CUBISM

"EVERYTHING YOU CAN IMAGINE IS REAL."



1. Draw a couple simple random objects



2. Cut these out for templates



3. Trace shapes on paper in creative design



4. Repeat random elements of design building layers



5. Erase some lines to simplify design.

6. Make some lines up of your own connecting various elements.

7. Use straight edge to chop up space with diagonals



8. Now that you have design in place, sharpie over your lines .



9. Color to taste.
YOU ARE DONE!!!

**YOU CAN DO IT
ALL BY YOURSELF!
LET ME SEE YOU DO IT!**

