



Artist & Composer Study

This session's featured artist is Jacques-Louis David. We've included six art selections for your kids and teens to use for picture study. They are:

- *Oath of the Horatii*, 1784
- *The Death of Socrates*, 1787
- *Portrait of Anne-Marie-Louise Thélusson, Comtesse de Sorcy*, 1790
- *The Death of Marat*, 1793
- *Napoleon Crossing the Alps at the Sainte-Bernard Pass*, 1801
- *The Coronation of Napoleon*, 1807

This session's featured composer is Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. We have included six of his pieces for music study. They are:

- *Eine kleine Nachtmusik*, Serenade No. 13
- *Piano Sonata No. 11 in A major*, K. 331
- *Clarinet Concerto in A major*, K.622
- *Symphony No. 40 in G minor*
- *Piano Concerto No. 21*, K.467
- *Requiem in D minor*

Plus a fun bonus:

- *The Magic Flute* (Opera)

"In the arts the way in which an idea is rendered, and the manner in which it is expressed, is much more important than the idea itself."

~ Jacques-Louis David

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Jacques-Louis David

August 30, 1748- December 29, 1825

Jacques-Louis David was born in 1748 in Paris, France, into a wealthy family. His childhood, however, was marked by tragedy when his father was killed in a pistol duel while David was only nine years old. After this loss, his mother entrusted his upbringing to her two brothers, both of whom were architects.

His family hoped he would follow in their footsteps and join the architectural profession. Yet from an early age, David showed little interest in formal schooling, as he was far more absorbed in drawing. Recognizing his natural talent, he began artistic training under François Boucher, a leading Rococo painter and a distant relative. Boucher, seeing that David's

temperament and style differed from his own, encouraged him to study instead with Joseph-Marie Vien, whose more restrained and classical approach suited David better.

During his early training, David suffered a serious injury in a fencing match with a fellow student. The accident caused lasting nerve damage, leaving him with a facial deformity and a speech impediment that affected him for the rest of his life.

In 1766, David enrolled at the Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture in Paris and later became a member of the prestigious French Royal Academy. Despite his talent, he was often at odds with the institution. His bold artistic vision and strong personality led him to disregard traditional procedures for exhibiting his work, earning him a reputation for arrogance and controversy.

Over time, David emerged as the leading figure of the Neoclassical movement, rejecting the ornate frivolity of Rococo art in favor of clarity, order, and moral seriousness. His work attracted the attention of influential figures such as Thomas Jefferson and Napoleon Bonaparte. He also trained a generation of artists, later known as the "School of David," who carried forward his Neoclassical ideals.

David's life was deeply intertwined with the political upheavals of his time, and he was known as a political "chameleon." He began his career painting for the court of Louis XVI, but as the French Revolution unfolded, his loyalties shifted. He became closely associated with Maximilien Robespierre and joined the National Convention. During the Revolution and the Reign of Terror, his art became a powerful symbol of republican ideals.

In 1794, after the fall of Robespierre, David was arrested for treason due to his ties to the Jacobins. Though imprisoned, he was released in less than a year. Ever adaptable, he later aligned himself with Napoleon Bonaparte, becoming the emperor's official portraitist. In 1803, Napoleon honored him as a Knight of the Legion of Honor and commissioned him to paint grand works commemorating his reign, including his coronation.

However, David's fortunes changed once again when Napoleon fell from power and was exiled to Elba. As a former supporter of the regime, David was himself exiled, settling in Brussels, where he spent the remainder of his life.

After his death, his sons petitioned to have his body returned to France, but the request was denied by the restored monarchy. However, it is rumored that they secretly brought his heart back to France and buried it alongside his wife—a final, poignant tribute to a man whose life was as dramatic as the history he painted.



Oath of the Horatii, 1784



The Death of Socrates, 1787



Portrait of Anne-Marie-Louise Thélusson, Comtesse de Sorcy, 1790



The Death of Marat, 1793



Napoleon Crossing the Alps at the Saint-Bernard Pass, 1801



The Coronation of Napoleon, 1807

Picture Study

Title: _____

Date Created: _____

Art Mediums Used: _____

Further Study: _____

Use the box to draw a picture inspired by this artwork.

