



Artist & Composer Study

This session features master artist Michelangelo. We've included six art selections for your kids and teens to use for picture study. They are:

- *The First Day of Creation*
- *The Creation of the Sun and the Moon*
- *Dividing Water from Heaven*
- *The Creation of Adam*
- *The Creation of Eve*
- *The Downfall of Adam and Eve*

(Please Note: These artworks contain nudity, which you may feel is unsuitable for your children. Please use your own discretion as a parent). We have also included a bonus study of Biblical images in art if you would prefer to use them instead.

There is no featured composer for this session. However, we have included a study of Jewish Religious Music.

Artist & Composer Study



Michelangelo

March 6, 1475 – February 18, 1564

Michelangelo is considered to be one of the most legendary artists of all time. Primarily a sculptor, his most famous works include *The David* and *Pietà*, though he is also well known for his frescoes on the Sistine Chapel ceiling.

Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni was born on March 6, 1475, into a family of former nobility. His mother died when he was six years old, so his father sent him to live with a nanny. Her husband was a stoneworker living next to a marble quarry, and it was during this time that Michelangelo came to appreciate the beauty of marble and sculptures.

When he was still young, Michelangelo was sent to Florence to begin his education. However, he didn't like school and preferred to spend time copying paintings. His skills soon drew the attention of master artist Domenico Ghirlandaio, who took Michelangelo to be his apprentice at thirteen years old. During this time, his skills grew so much that his father insisted that Ghirlandaio pay Michelangelo for his works. He became so skilled, in fact, that Ghirlandaio regarded him as his most talented pupil.

Some of Michelangelo's most renowned works were produced while under Ghirlandaio's tutelage, including his sculptures *Madonna on the Stairs* and *Battle of the Centaurs*. However, not everyone appreciated the young artist, especially since he was known for his rough and unlikeable personality. Eventually, he came to blows with a fellow student, who struck his nose, causing it to be disfigured for the rest of his life.

After Ghirlandaio's death, Michelangelo returned to his father's home. This became a dark part of his life, and he took to studying corpses in the church's hospital. Fortunately, this study of anatomy led to his first lifelike sculpture, *Hercules*, and later the *Pietà*, the Virgin Mary. He was later requested by the Florence Republic to sculpt a symbol of their freedom, and thus Michelangelo created his most famous work: the statue *David*. This established Michelangelo as a true master.

In 1508, Michelangelo was commissioned by the Pope to work on the Sistine Chapel ceiling. At first, he refused, claiming that he was a sculptor, not a painter. However, when the Pope granted him full creative liberty, Michelangelo agreed. And though he was originally only supposed to paint the Twelve Disciples, he ended up painting over three hundred figures, representing the creation of the world, the fall of man, and the account of Noah. The ceiling took him four years to complete.

Following a period of war and unrest in Florence, Michelangelo fled to Rome, where he painted one of his last masterpieces: *The Last Judgment*. The painting depicts Christ in the likeness of a Greek deity, which became the subject of great controversy. Within the painting is a flayed human skin, which bears Michelangelo's own likeness.

Michelangelo died in 1564 and was buried in the Basilica of Santa Croce in Florence, Italy. Today, he is regarded as one of the most important artists during the High Renaissance and is considered to be one of the greatest artists of all time.

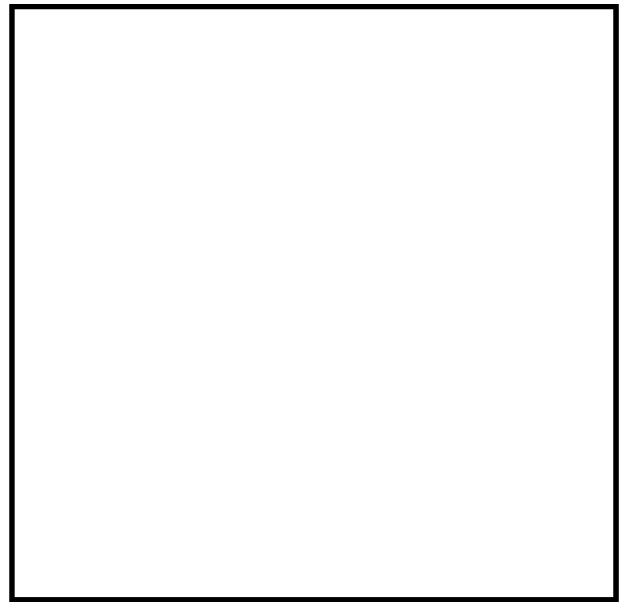
Artist Study

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

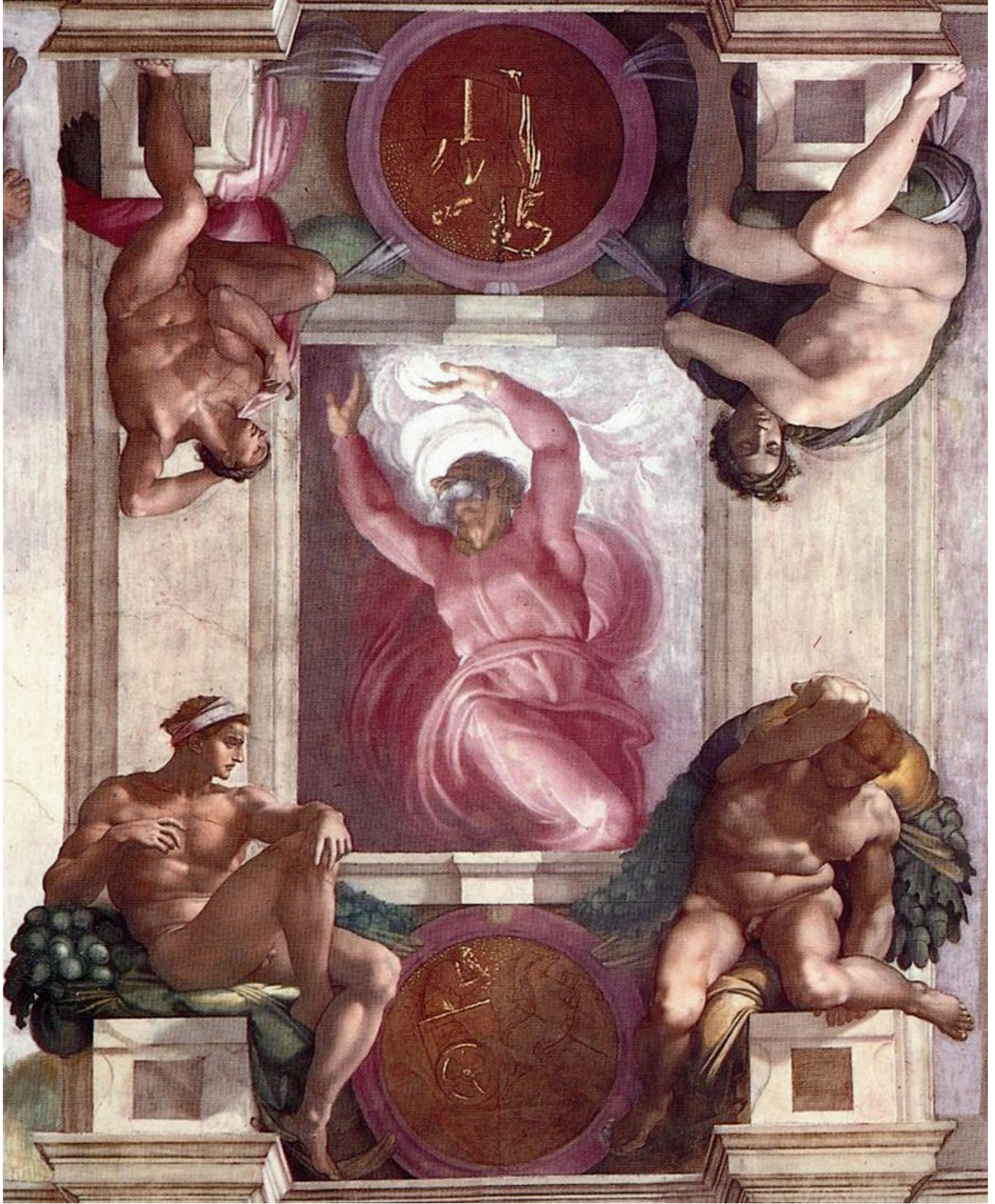
Artist Fun Facts: _____



Art Mediums Used: _____

Famous Artworks: _____

Further Study:



The First Day of Creation, 1508-1512



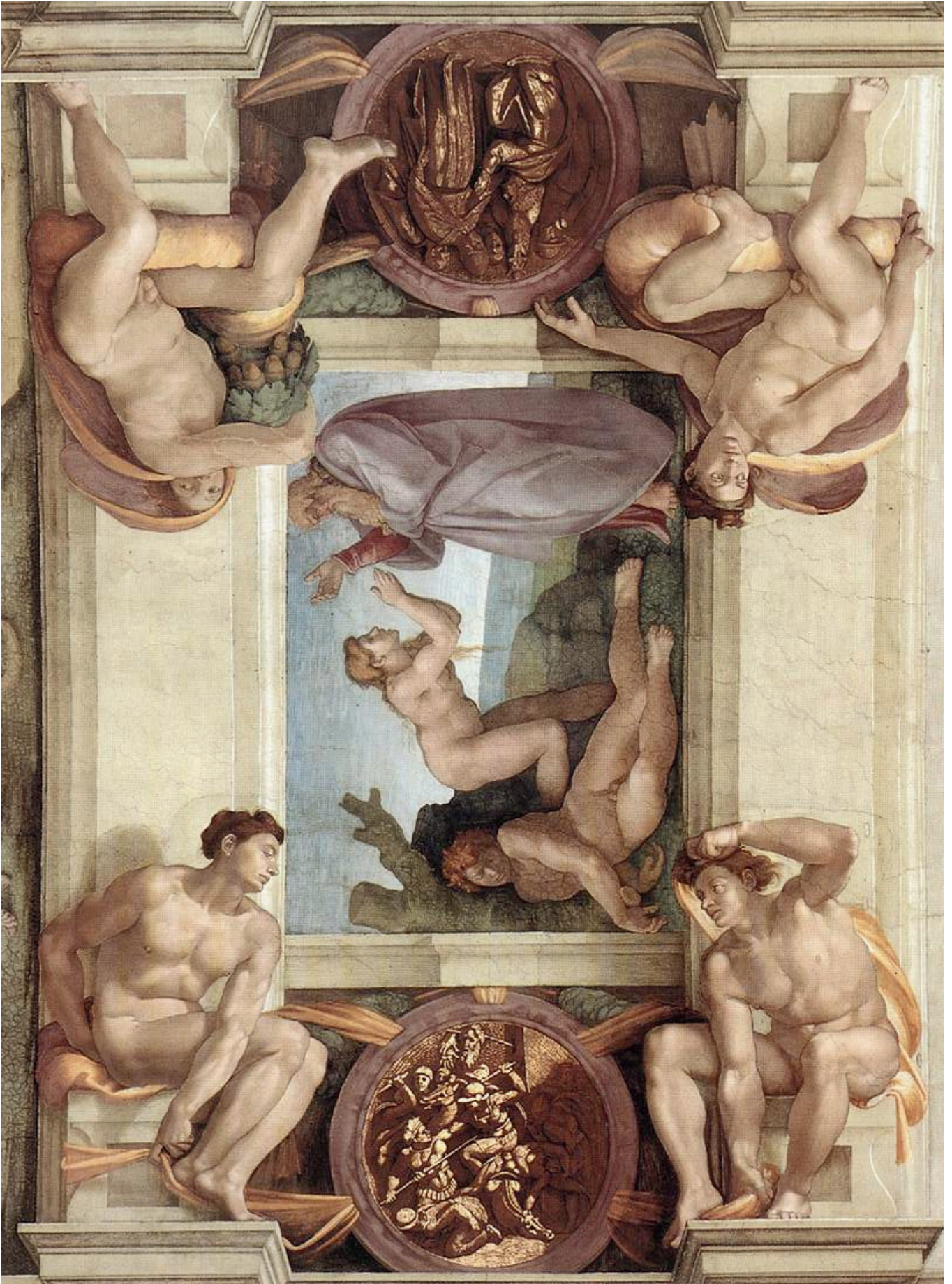
The Creation of the Sun and the Moon, 1508-1512



Dividing Water from Heaven, 1508-1512



The Creation of Adam, 1508-1512



The Creation of Eve, 1508-1512



The Downfall of Adam and Eve, 1508-1512

Biblical Images in Art

Art has been used as an expression of the deepest longings of the soul for hundreds of years, and the Bible has been the inspiration for many notable works. Scenes from the Old and New Testaments have been taken, interpreted, transformed, and displayed throughout history. The oldest pieces of Christian religious art on record are paintings found at Megiddo from around the year 70 AD, but art depicting scenes from the pages of the Bible became extremely popular as the second century dawned and Constantine spread Christianity across the Roman Empire.

When Constantine made Christianity the official religion of the empire, he built churches everywhere. Before this time, Christian churches had been common buildings, fairly indistinguishable from each other and the structures surrounding them. Constantine, however, wanted to change this, and he began to build opulent basilicas with large, domed ceilings. Churches commissioned artists to fill the space, and they created mosaics with images of Mary and baby Jesus, as well as Jesus' life and scenes from the cross.

The Protestant Reformation brought about a huge increase in the number of Biblical scenes being turned into religious artwork. During this time period, churches were purchasing art at a rapid speed. Some lay people also began to fill their homes with paintings. Michelangelo deftly painted the Sistine Chapel while lying on his back, Gianlorenzo Bernini dreamed up the beautiful columns at St. Peter's Basilica, and Leonardo da Vinci took his brush and created the masterpiece that is *The Last Supper*.

A few particularly influential pieces of Biblical artwork throughout history came from the stories of the Old Testament. One such piece is *Noah's Ark on the Mount Ararat*, created in 1570 by Simon de Myle. As far as is known, this is the only piece of artwork that de Myle ever created. He was not well-known at the time, and even today not much has been discovered about him. This detailed piece depicts pairs of animals leaving the giant ark as it rests on Mount Ararat after the floodwaters receded. If you take a close look at this piece, you will see some interesting things, like flying dragons in the sky, lions attacking a horse, and the twisted body of an animal lying dead on the ground.

Diego Velazquez was a Spanish artist who lived in the early 1600s and was known for his paintings of Biblical scenes and portraits. He painted a moving work called *The Crucified Christ*, a New Testament scene in which he makes use of contrast by creating a dark background behind a light cross. The stark difference between light and dark was also a common theme in Velazquez's other Biblical artworks.

A popular work by renowned fresco painter Domenichino is called *Abraham Leading Isaac to Sacrifice*. In this piece, a young Isaac carries a load of firewood on his back while a mature Abraham points up a mountain in the direction they are traveling. Waiting a few turns down the path below are two servants, one resting and one standing with a donkey. A large building covers much of the valley below, and a green landscape stretches into the distance.

Fra Angelico, a friar who lived and painted in the early 1400s, is known today for his Biblical artwork. His works, most notably *The Annunciation*, *The Adoration of the Magi*, and *The Descent From the Cross* were works meant to inspire devotion and meditation among the patrons of the church and the monks who lived there.

Biblical images have influenced the world of art throughout history. These artworks served as a way to fill the beautiful ceilings and walls of opulent basilicas, to teach the stories of the Bible to the masses, and to ignite religious passion inside the hearts of people all over the world.



Noah's Ark on Mount Ararat, by Simon de Myle, 1570



The Sacrifice of Isaac, by Domenichino (Domenico Zampieri), 1627-1628



Joseph's Bloody Coat Brought to Jacob, by Diego Velázquez, 1630



Moses and the Burning Bush, by Domenichino (Domenico Zampieri), 1610-1616



The Tower of Babel, by Pieter Bruegel the Elder, 1563

Picture Study

Title: _____

Date Created: _____

Art Mediums Used: _____

Further Study: _____

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

