Chapter Guide #26: Rococo to Neoclassicism

**CONTEXT:**

The Enlightenment was a new way of thinking, and people moved away from extreme religious thinking and could learn to analyze the world and the environment. Critical thinking was based on empirical evidence.

* **The Enlightenment** – great advances in the pure and natural sciences, decline of the Church
* **Beginning of democratic movements** – growing democratic movements and revolutions
* **Decline of monarchies** – French Revolution of 789 and the decline of absolute monarchies in Europe
* **Beginnings of the Industrial Revolution** – begins with the invention of steam engine and electricity
* **Exploration of the new world** – emergence of Britain as the dominant maritime power
* **Colonialism** – the beginning of the colonization of Africa, India, and the South Seas
* **New Archeological Discoveries** – Herculaneum (1709) and Pompeii (1748) lead to Neoclassicism
* **Rise of the Academies** – theoretical writing and training of artists in Royal Academies and Societies
* **The great age of music** – Handel, Bach, Mozart, Haydn

**ART WORK CARDS: 3D (Yellow) 2D (Red) Architecture (Green)**

Boffrand’s Salon de Princesse (Architecture)

Neumann’s Vierzehnheiligen (Architecture)

Watteau’s Pilgrimage to Cythera (2D)

Fragonard’s The Swing (2D)

Clodion’s Nymph and Satyr Carousing (3D)

Vigee-Lebrun’s Self Portrait (2D)

Hogarth’s Breakfast Scene (2D)

Gainsborough’s Portraits (2D)

Reynold’s Portraits (2D)

David’s Oath of Horatti (2D)

David’s Death of Marat (2D)

Soufflot’s Pantheon (Architecture)

Jefferson’s Monticello (Architecture)

Houdon’s George Washinton (3D)

**TIMELINE:**

**1648** Royal Academies established

**1687** Newton’s Laws of Motion and Gravitation

**1712-1783** Rousseau

**1748**  Excavation of Pompeii begins

**1763-1783** American Revolution

**1776** Declaration of Independence

**1789-1795** French Revolution

**1804**  Napoleon crowned Emperor

**VOCABULARY:**

Rococo

Enlightenment

Intrigue painting

Picturesque

Fete Galante

cast iron

Romanticism

academy

**CONTEXT CARDS: Blue**

Rococo

18th c. Natural Art

Neoclassicism

**ROCOCO & NEOCLASSICAL COMPARISON:**

**Rococo**

**General Characteristics**

emotional

individualistic

impassioned

subjective

poetic – drawn to irrationality

**Subject Matter**

contemporary life historical events

interest in exotic cultures

Liberation of Greece

modern catastrophes – revolutions

Romantic poets

Byron

cause celebre

Revolution of 1830

Revolution of 1848

individual response

involved in subject matter

hysterical and histrionic

staged disorder, apparent randomness

**Stylistic Characteristics**

loose gestural paint, unfinished quality

approximate representation of detail

form expresses in value/color

deeper space/diagonals

soft light, high contrast, atmospheric

diffused soft edges to forms

visual complexity

dynamic (diagonals)

apparent disorder

**Neoclassical**

**General Characteristics**

intellectual

idealistic

somber

objective

didactic – ideological

**Subject Matter**

antiquity (Greece and Rome) – events from classical past used metaphorically

archaeological discoveries

Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Paestum

Academic, political and theoretical writing

Winckelmann

Political and imperial ambitions

French Revolution

Napoleon’s Imperialism

manifesto-like

detached presentations of subject matter

pontifical and propaganda

stage-like organization of figures

**Stylistic Characteristics**

paint surface polished

physical accuracy

form is linear – clarity of contour

relief-like shallow space

harsh clear handling of light and shadow

sculpturesque sharpness of modeling

severe simplicity

rigid (vertical/horizontal)

orderly