

History Painting

Year 2

The term history painting is used to describe painting which shows stories from classical history, mythology and the Bible. This unit builds on the children's knowledge from their study of paintings showing St George and the Dragon in year 1 in the unit on *Narrative Art*. To explore the idea of history painting, the children look at mythological art, studying in detail art which tells the story of Theseus and the Minotaur. The paintings they study, which tell different parts of the story as well as the whole story range from frescos found at Pompei in ancient Rome to 20th century paintings. They consider how history paintings show different settings and characters and explore how artists can show different characteristics or personalities by the way they draw. The children then make a detailed study of the work of Picasso which show the minotaur and create their own work in mixed media incorporating the minotaur and the maze.