



SAMPLE

Fra Angelico Picture Study Course

TWELVE 10- TO 15-MINUTE GROUP LESSONS
FOR GRADES 1-12



Fra Angelico Picture Study Course
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course description

Students will hear a brief biographical sketch of Fra Angelico and study eight of his paintings. Home extensions include geography and map research, entering the artist into the Book of Centuries, and displaying the eight painting prints in turn.

lessons overview

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complete materials list

FOR CLASS TIME

- *Picture Study Portfolio: Fra Angelico* (Order one for the teacher.)
- Chalkboard with chalk or whiteboard with dry erase markers
- Bible
- Tape measure
- Sheet of gold leaf or other metallic gold paper

FOR HOME EXTENSIONS

- Fra Angelico set of extra prints (Order one set for each family.)
- Internet-connected device
- Book of Centuries

note The teacher will be distributing the picture prints to students as they are studied during class time. You may either keep the sets of extra prints at your class location during the term or have families bring their sets of extra prints to each class time. Families may then keep their prints at the end of the term.

Lesson 1: Biography, part 1

MATERIALS NEEDED

- *Picture Study Portfolio: Fra Angelico*
- Chalkboard or whiteboard

INTRODUCTION / 3–5 minutes

Write “Fra Angelico” on the board. Read the name aloud and explain that this is the famous nickname of the artist that the students will be studying this term.

Display the portrait of Fra Angelico on the front cover of the *Picture Study Portfolio: Fra Angelico* book, and ask students what they notice about him.

Explain that the artist’s black robe shows that he was a monk who lived and worked in a convent, a special community set apart to live godly lives and preach the gospel.

Write “Giotto” on the board. (If your class has studied Giotto, ask students what they recall about that artist.) Explain that Giotto was another famous painter who will be mentioned in the story.

PRESENTATION / 7–10 minutes

Encourage students to listen carefully for Fra Angelico’s real name and anything else they can learn about him as you read.

Read aloud the first half of “The Story of Fra Angelico” in the *Picture Study Portfolio: Fra Angelico* book. Stop at the end of the first full paragraph on page 13: “from what he had learned.”

Ask students what they have learned so far about Fra Angelico’s names (Guido was his baby name; Fra Giovanni, or Brother John, was his given name at the convent; Fra Angelico means angelic brother, given because of his pure life and heavenly pictures) or anything else about him.



HOME EXTENSION: On a map of Italy (printed or online), find the locations that were mentioned in the biography portion read in class. Look for Fiesole (near Florence), Perugia, and Assisi. Notice the Arno river nearby. Check the Internet for photographs that show the hill country and small towns of the region of Umbria.

DATE

tip If you would like to read the biography portion in two smaller sections, stop halfway through page 12 (“as they were in those far-off years.”) and ask for a narration, then read through the first full paragraph on page 13 and ask for another narration.

tip A complete list of Home Extensions for this course can be found on pages 15 and 16 in this guide. You may want to copy and distribute those pages to the parents of your students.
