

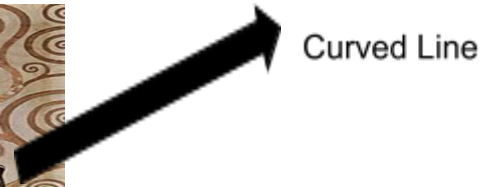
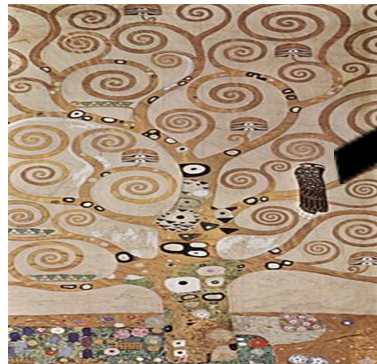
# ART NOUVEAU

## STEP 1: MOTIVATION

Students are in circle

A brainstorming activity is carried out only with the image for students without difficulties and with the help of key words for students who struggle.

Observe



Curved Line

Ask:

What is it? A cloth? A painting?

What does the image represent?

Where are we? (a church, a Palace, a museum...)

What historical period are we in?

Collect responses in a word web

TREE  
BRANCH  
OWL  
GOLD  
FLOWERS

## STEP 2: INPUT PRESENTATION

The term *Art Nouveau* identifies an artistic trend that developed in Europe between 1890 and 1915, in the historical period called "*La Belle Époque*", a period of peace and economic prosperity that lasted until the First World War.

Big European capitals are growing and people want to meet and have fun together: new streets, subways, theatres, cinemas, department stores, cafes, restaurants are being built.

Thanks to the development of science and technology, new materials (steel, cast iron) and new technologies are produced to process them (curved wood, polychrome glass).

ArtNouveau is a new refined and elegant style, linked to the new industrial era, to new materials and to the series production of objects.

### ACTIVITY 1

Join the question with the right answer.

A	WHAT?	1) ART NOUVEAU
B	WHEN?	2) Refined and elegant piece of furniture with wooden frame available in several finishes.
C	WHERE?	3) PERIOD OF PEACE and PROSPERITY (Belle Époque)
D	WHY?	4) EUROPE (great capitals)
E	HOW?	5) 1890 - 1915

If you have students who are struggling, prepare keyword images.

The following text is simplified. For pupils without particular problems, the standard text should be used, always divided into sequences.

Level groups or Jigsaw – Provide a group exercise or mentor supervision.

Between 1890 and 1915 a new artistic movement called Art Nouveau spread to Europe and America.

Born from the desire to create a whole new style that did not imitate the styles of the past, and to improve the aesthetics of everyday objects, Art Nouveau met the wishes of the industrial upper class to surround themselves with exclusive objects and exquisite workmanship.

This artistic current invested all artistic forms, including the Applied and Decorative Arts (furniture, goldsmiths, fabrics, objects, posters, urban furniture, etc.), opening the way to the birth of Design: every human production can become a work of art.

Of particular importance was the figure of the architect, who was called to design not only the building, but also the furniture, lamps, upholstery, etc. Thanks to the development of science and technology, new materials were produced (steel, cast iron) and new technologies to process them too (bent wood, polychrome stained glass). Characteristic was the use of curved lines, sinuous and elegant, which drew inspiration from natural motifs (floral, vegetable and animal).

The inspiration from nature leads to the creation of motifs inspired by plant forms (phytomorphism) or animal forms (zoomorphism)

Art Nouveau spread throughout Europe with common characters but with different names:

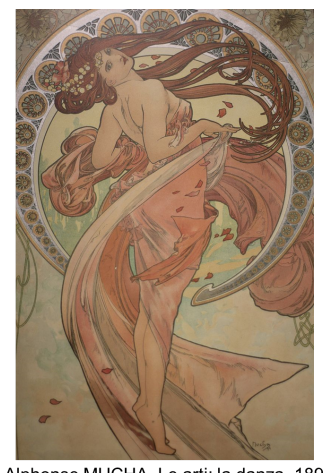
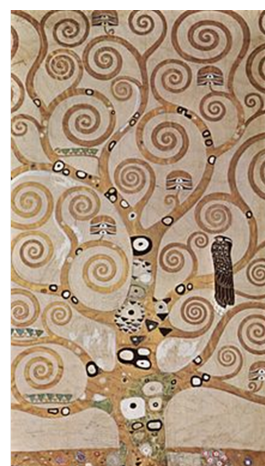
- Art Nouveau in France,
- Liberty in Italy,
- Modernism in Spain,
- Modern Style in Great Britain,
- Sezessionstil in Austria,
- Jugendstil in Germany.

Examples of Art Nouveau can be found in all European cities, including Paris, Vienna, Barcelona.



Among the most important artistic personalities are:

- in Vienna the painter **Gustav Klimt**,
- in Belgium the architect **Victor Horta**,
- in Barcelona the architect **Antoni Gaudí**,
- in Paris **Hector Guimard**,
- in Milan **Giuseppe Sommaruga**,
- the cartoonist **Alphonse Mucha**.



Alphonse MUCHA. Le arti: la donna, 1899

## ACTIVITY 2

Join the country with the name Art Nouveau takes.

	(a) ITALY	1) ART NOUVEAU
	(b) SPAIN	2) LIBERTY
	C. GERMANY	3) MODERN STYLE
d1	D. FRANCE	4) JUGENDSTIL
	(e) AUSTRIA	5) MODERNISM
	(f) GREAT BRITAIN	6) SEZESSIONSTIL

## ACTIVITY 3

Link the words to their meaning.

a2	a) AESTHETICS	1) set of gold objects
	(b) GOLDSMITHS	2) beauty, exterior appearance
	Urban furniture	3) metal alloy consisting of iron and carbon
	d) VEGETABLE	4) industrial production of large quantities of products
	e) FLORAL	5) which refers to flowers
	f) CAST IRON	6) furnishing of public spaces in a city
	Volume production	7) excellent processing
	h) EXQUISITE INVOICE	8) which refers to plants
	i) SINUOUS	9) trend characterized by frequent curves

## ACTIVITY 4

Complete the text with the words written below.

furniture - ~~applied arts~~ - decorations - architecture - floral and vegetable - lines -  
Gustav Klimt - Antoni Gaudì

Art Nouveau is a new artistic movement that develops especially in the... **applied arts**...

This style is characterized by its .....sinuous and elegant, inspired by the themes  
....., which meet the favor of the industrial bourgeoisie.

Art Nouveau has its strengths in..... (furniture, lamps, upholstery) and in  
....., where houses with exclusive shapes are designed, covered with precious  
..... polychrome.

The most important artists are: Victor Horta, ....., Hector Guimard, .....,  
Giuseppe Sommaruga, Alphonse Mucha.

**+ Summarize text (for high flyers)**

## GUSTAV KLIMT: THE FRIEZE OF PALAZZO STOCLET



Stoclet Palace, Brussels, 1905-1909



Sala da pranzo



Gustav Klimt  
FRIEZE OF PALAZZO STOCLET  
WORLD HERITAGE - UNESCO

The frieze, which Klimt designed for the dining room of the palace of the wealthy Stoclet bourgeois family, is made, according to his precise instructions, by the skilled craftsmen of the Wiener Werkstätte. It is a mosaic of marble, coral, hard and majolica stones.

Next to *the tree of life*, on the left, emerges the dancer who represents *the expectation* of the beloved; on the right is painted *the embrace*. The succession of the three subjects wants to tell with delicate charm a sort of fairy tale: a young girl awaits her beloved among the golden branches of the tree of life; in the end she realizes the dream of joining him, with passion.

In the figures of the frieze we notice:

- the large tree with sinuous lines that occupies the entire panel
- the elegance and sophistication of the design and the preciousness of the materials used
- the abundant decorative richness of the cloaks and the environment, with elements inspired by nature, flowers, trees and geometric elements
- the abundant use of gold
- the naturalistic (realistic) depiction of faces and arms

- the absence of volume of the bodies and the tree (they are flat)

In this work, the Viennese artist takes inspiration from the art of ancient Egypt (the dancer has her face in profile and eyes in front), from the art of Byzantine mosaic (of which the city of Ravenna is a fundamental example for Klimt) and from Japanese art.

## STEP 3: FOCUS

### ACTIVITY 5

Indicate whether the statements are true (V) or false (F). Correct the false ones.

	V	F	Corrections
1) Gustave Klimt is the main exponent of Liberty		X	<b>Gustave Klimt is the main exponent of the Sezessionstil</b>
2) For his works Klimt takes inspiration from the art of ancient Egypt			
3) The frieze of Palazzo Stoclet is a fresco			
4) The frieze of Palazzo Stoclet includes <i>the tree of life, the waiting, the kiss</i>			
5) The branches of the tree of life are drawn by rigid and broken lines			

+ TRUE/FALSE/NOT GIVEN (for high flyers)

## STEP 4: PRACTICE

### ACTIVITY 6

Underlines the correct choice.

- 1) The frieze of Palazzo Stoclet was made in *1805/1905* , the author is the Viennese artist *Gustav Klimt*
- 2) The work belongs to the artistic current of the *Sezessionstil/Modern Style*
- 3) The tree of life occupies *all/little* space, on the left there is the *waiting*, on the right the *hug*
- 4) The branches of the large tree are a series of *sinuous and curved/straight lines*
- 5) The design is *elegant and refined*, the materials used are *precious/poor*
- 6) The shapes *are/are not* inspired by nature
- 7) There is mainly the color *green/gold*
- 8) Character faces are *realistic/geometric*
- 9) Dress decorations are *realistic/geometric*
- 10) The work makes it clear that the Stoclet family is part of the *working class/bourgeoisie*

+The same exercise can be given with the blank choice. "Complete the summary with your own words"( for high flyers)

## STEP 5: LANGUAGE

1. Interpersonal language. Give language chunks useful to express your opinion and ask students to formulate sentences asking and answering questions with cued cards in pairs...Example: in my opinion... I think...I guess...I'm not sure but...What do you think?...Do you agree...?
2. Academic language: build up an activity based on the specific language acquired. (cloze, for instance )
3. SEL related language: *the feelings the frieze gives me*. You can help with words, if needed but ask students to provide as many words( new words) as they can. I feel...the picture gives me sensations of...etc.

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## STEP 6: FOLLOW UP ( the same pattern as above is followed to introduce a linked topic)

Observe and complete the text with the words in the box:

ROOF
FRONT
WINDOW
STOREFRONT
BALCONY
ENTRY
CHIMNEYPOT



BUILDING

Ask:

What kind of building do you see??

Is it the same kind you are used to or different?(collect answers in a word web)

What does it make you think about?

Where are we? Do you know?

In circle

## ANTONI GAUDÌ: CASA BATLLÒ

The architect Antoni Gaudí is the main interpreter of *Catalan Modernism*, he is especially interested in the study of new construction techniques and new materials.

His sources of inspiration are: nature - "*the great book always open*", the medieval churches (he is very religious) and the strength of the colors of the ceramics of Catalan craftsmanship.

Gaudí's buildings are characterized by curved lines, bizarre shapes but always functional to the purpose and bright colors obtained also with the use of ceramics and glass.

Casa Batlló is the building where the Batlló family lived; it was not a new construction project, but rather the renovation of an austere building from 1877, transformed into a masterpiece of modernism, full of imagination and creativity.

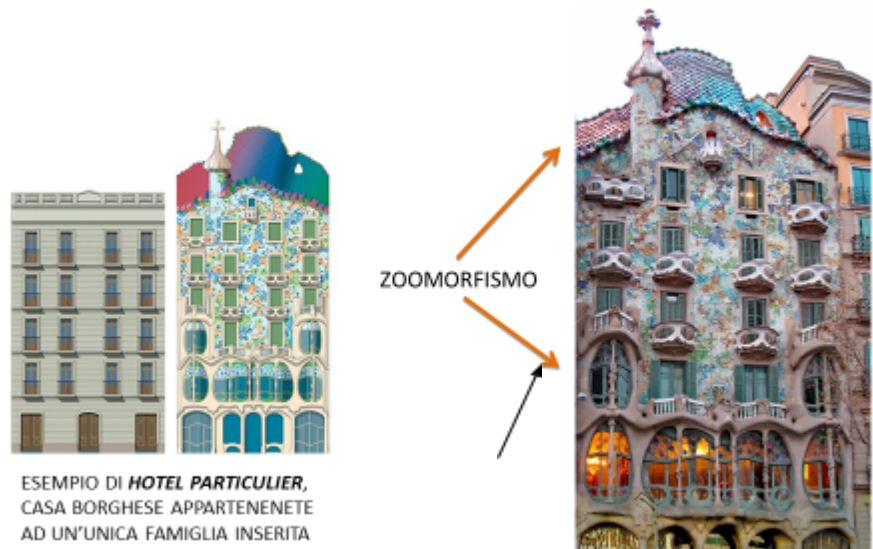
Gaudí added a floor, where the attic that was usually rented is located.

The Batlló family lived on the first floor, called the noble floor, where there was a large room where the family received guests.

Gaudí also made sure that natural light illuminated every corner of Casa Batlló, making the rooms beautiful and healthy. This is thanks to the main skylight that covers the central cavedio, which crosses all floors, decorated with tiles in shades of blue, where the light is distributed.

Gaudí has designed an original ventilation system, by means of small manual openings that allow you to regulate the air with precision, without having to fully open the windows.

**ANTONI GAUDÌ: Casa Batlló, Barcellona, 1904-1907**  
**PATRIMONIO DELL'UMANITA' - UNESCO**



ESEMPIO DI *HOTEL PARTICULIER*,  
CASA BORGHESE APPARTENENETE  
AD UN'UNICA FAMIGLIA INSERITA

**ANTONI GAUDÌ: Casa Batlló, Barcellona, 1904-1907**



<https://www.casabatllo.es/it/>

The façade of Casa Batllò contains most of the features of Gaudí's architecture: the predominance of the curved line, the great decorative details and nature as a source of inspiration for ornamental and structural motifs.

The ceramic tiles that cover the roof of the building form a colorful and wavy mantle that recalls the back of a dragon pierced by the sword, represented by the chimney crowned by a cross (Saint George who kills the dragon is the patron saint of Catalonia), while the columns of the large windows look like bones and joints.

Trencadís *is* a type of mosaic decoration made up of pieces of ceramic and coloured glass.

Gaudí also took care of the design of all the furnishings of the house: the furniture, the doors, the windows, the chandeliers, etc., thus making the whole a true work of art!

[Virtual tour of Casa Batllò through the official website and analysis of the interior and facade.](#)

#### ACTIVITY 7

Search the Dictionary for words and write their meaning in the table.

a) FUNCTIONAL	1) that fully responds to the functions for which it was designed and built
b) AUSTERE	2)
c) ATTIC	3)
d) HEALTHY	4)
e) SKYLIGHT	5)
f) CAVEDIO	6)
g) ORNAMENTAL	7
(h) STRUCTURAL	8)

#### ACTIVITY 8

Complete the text with the words written below (be careful not all are right).



dwelling - floor - cavedio - room - room - roof - ceramics - bricks - straight - curves - animal -  
Libery - Modernism

In 1904 the Spanish architect Antoni Gaudì was commissioned by the Battlò family to renovate their palace in Barcelona. He ensured that the building perfectly responded to its function as a..... **home**.....: he added a ..... with the attic, he built a large ..... central because in all the rooms natural light entered, on the first floor he built a large ..... illuminated by a large glass window, etc.

To pay homage to the patron saint of Barcelona, St. George, transformed the entire building into a great fantastic dragon: the ..... represents the scales of the dragon's skin, the chimney with the cross symbolizes the sword that killed him.

To decorate the façade he used Trencadís, a mosaic made up of pieces of ..... and coloured glass.

The presence of lines and shapes ..... and the inspiration to nature, both vegetable and....., make this building an example of architecture of&nbsp;.....

+ Complete the text with your own words

## Activity 9

Check if you understand the text: answer the questions.

1. What artistic movement was born in Europe between the late 1800s and the early 1900s?
2. What art forms was it interested in?
3. What are its main characteristics?
4. What are the names of the most important artists in this movement?
5. Do you know a work by Gustave Klimt? describe it
6. Who was Antoni Gaudì?
7. Do you know a work by Antoni Gaudì? describe it

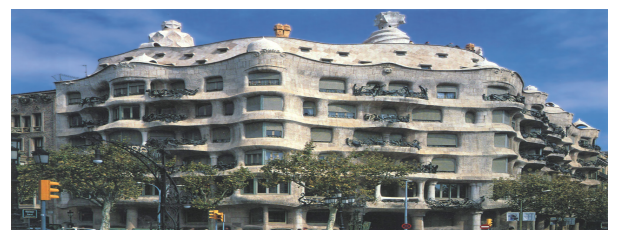
+ Each group works on a different work and then reports to the others

Using the information on the official websites of the following buildings designed by Gaudi, fill in the relative files

SAGRADA FAMILIA, 1884 – 1926, BARCELONA (SPAIN)  
<http://www.sagradafamilia.org>



CASA MILÀ (LA PEDRERA), 1905-1910,  
BARCELONA (SPAIN)  
<https://www.lapedrera.com>





PARK GUELL 1900-1926, BARCELONA (SPAIN)

<https://www.parkguell.cat>

**Fill in the file**

Title of the work (image)

Author

Period

Placement of the work .....

Reference artistic current.....

Production technique (fresco, oil on canvas, mosaic, etc.).....

Description of the work

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Reading visual codes (sign, colour, space, for painting) .....

.....  
.....

Meaning of the work .....

.....  
.....

Personal observations

## STEP 7: TESTS/ASSESSMENT

Cued cards for the oral test. (One pupil must formulate the questions and the other the answers on the basis of suggestions given )

Filling in files.

Classic oral exam with help from the mentor in the preparation (activity questions).

Cloze text formulated at different level of difficulty (choice between two words, choice between a given word group,/free choice)

.....