

**Lesson Plan for World History - (Grades 9-12)**  
**regular placement for University of Kansas**  
**Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies**

**A SELECTION OF RUSSIAN AVANT-GARDE ART AND ARCHITECTURE 1890-1934**

By Paul Adams – June 30, 2008  
Social Studies Department  
Topeka High School  
USD 501 Topeka, Kansas

**I. Purpose** of this unit is to expose students to a selection of Russian/Soviet art, architectural styles, artists and designers. Students will also learn about other individuals and events that influenced this movement.

**II. Materials needed for this unit.** See bibliography titles marked with an asterisk (\*) High School World History, Art History or Russian History textbooks. Teacher access to internet a must, student access to internet while not necessary would greatly facilitate individual student familiarity with material.

**III. Unit Goals**

- A.) Students should be able to identify the time frame of this movement.
- B.) Identify key terms and definitions associated with this movement.
- C.) Identify selected artists and designers from this movement.
- D.) Students should be able to link particular works and designs with certain artistic styles and their originators.
- E.) Students should be able to list the challenges, conditions, strengths and weaknesses of this movement.
- F.) Students should be able to list at least three reasons for the rise of this form of expressions in the Soviet Union and two reasons for its decline.
- G.) Students will be able to recognize the cultural impact of this movement in the Soviet Union and internationally in both the past and present eras.

**IV. Students will** identify selected terms and definitions from this worksheet/study guide in art terms and definitions

1. Russian avant-garde – Describes the large international wave of modern that thrived in Russia and the early Soviet Union from 1890-1930.
2. Abstractionism – A form of artistic expression that does not depict objects in the natural world but instead uses color and form in a non-presentational way.
3. Cubism – Form of art in which the artist depicts the object from a variety of view points by breaking-up and re-assembling the subject in an abstract form.
4. Constructivism (Russian Architecture 1920-1932) – A form of modern architecture favored in the Soviet Union that combined what was advanced technology and engineering for that era with Communist social demands.

5. Fauvism (1905-1907) – A form of art in which there are visible brush strokes and strong color favored in Europe in the early 20th century.
6. Russian Futurism 1912 – late 1920's – More of a literary movement, art works display dynamism, speed and the restlessness of modern life.
7. Russian Art constructivism – 1919-1934 – The form of art was used by authorities for social and political purposes. Had an impact on German Weimar Republic.
8. Neo – Primitivism – Painting style that started in 1913 that fused elements of Cubism, Futurism with traditional Russian art.
9. Suprematism – 1915-1934 – An art form based on geometric forms such as squares, circles and whose influence could often be seen in Soviet architecture at this time.
10. Modernism – a term that covers a series of reforming movements in art, architecture, music, literature and applied arts during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
11. Russian Symbolism – A branch of Western European Symbolism. This was an artistic and intellectual movement that flourished in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
12. Soviet Realism – 1934-1991 – The purpose of this art form was controlled by the government to further the needs of the Soviet State and Socialism. A form of realistic art not to be confused with social realism.

## V. Personalities and Terms

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| (1) Karl Marx           | (8) Alexander Rodchenko    |
| (2) V.I. Lenin          | (9) Liubov Popva           |
| (3) Communism           | (10) Antatoliy Vasilienich |
| (4) Natalia Concharovia | (11) Vladimir Mayakovsky   |
| (5) El Lissitzky        | (12) Marxism               |
| (6) Kazimir Malevich    | (13) Ogla Rozanova         |
| (7) Russian Revolution  | (14) U.S.S.R               |

## VI. Selected Works of Russian avant-garde period

### ART

Artist	Work	Year
A) Valdimir Kozlinsky	Red Commander	1920-1921
B) Alexander Exter	Constructive Still Life	1917
C) Wassily Kandinsky	Amazon in the Mountain	1917-1918
D) Alexander Labas	Dirigible	1931
E) Sergi Gerasimov	Our Daily Bread	1921

from Avant-Garde Art in Russia 1920-1930 by Yevgeny Kovtum 1996.

## ARCHITECTURE

Building	Location	Date	Designers
A) Lenin Military Political Academy	Moscow	1930-1934	Aleksei Schusev Georgi Lakovlev
B) MoGES Moscow City Electric Power Station	Moscow	1925-1927	Ivan Zholtovski
C) Pshkin Square	Moscow	1926	Grigori Barkhin Mikhail Barkhin
D) Zuev Workers Club	Moscow	1926	Ilia Golosov
E) Dinamo Stadium	Moscow	1926	Arkadi Langman Lazar Cherikover

### VII. Testing and Evaluation Suggestions

- A) Teacher can use slides/reproductions of posters, art, architectural for students to identify on test or use written description of work or artist.
- B) Teacher may use text maker software for use with terms, definitions and names or do this by hand. Material and evaluation can be combined depending upon grade and ability level of students amount of time teacher has spent on unit and amount of resources used during the unit.

### VIII Bibliography

- \* 1) Elisabeth Gaynor Ellis, Anthony Elslar, World History – Chapter 28  
pg 822-913, Pearson/Prentice Hall, New Jersey 2007
- \* 2) Pare, Richard  
The Lost Vanguard Russian Modernist Architecture 1922-1932  
Monacelli Press, New York, New York 2007
- \* 3) Kovtun, Yevgeny  
Avant–Garde Art 1920-1930  
Aurora Art Publishers, St. Petersburg 1996
- \* 4) [www.russianavantgarde.com](http://www.russianavantgarde.com)
- 5) [www.avangard-ru.org/pages/masters-of-avantgarde.php](http://www.avangard-ru.org/pages/masters-of-avantgarde.php)
- \* 6) [http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_m0422/is\\_4\\_80/ai\\_54073959](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0422/is_4_80/ai_54073959)
- 7) <http://www.a-art.com/avantgarde/avind.html>
- 8) [www.schicklerart.com](http://www.schicklerart.com)