

Q: What is a *vedute* painting?

A: This was a kind of painting that became popular during the eighteenth century as more people took the Grand Tour to Italy. *Vedute* paintings (literally, “view” paintings) provided snapshot-like souvenirs for tourists to remember their trip. One of the most famous *vedute* artists was Canaletto.

Tags: [canaletto](#), [Grand Tour](#), [Italy](#), [painting genres](#), [Vedute](#)

Q: Was Benjamin West American or British?

A: Benjamin West was born and trained in Pennsylvania. His greatest artistic success, however, was in England, where he worked for King George III and founded the Royal Academy. Nonetheless, he trained many American artists, thereby exerting direct influence on the American colonies’ developing artistic traditions.

Tags: [american colonies](#), [benjamin west](#), [Classicism](#), [eighteenth century](#), [enlightenment](#), [geography](#), [Neoclassicism](#), [royal society](#)

Q: What was the Grand Tour? How did it affect the world of art?

A: The Grand Tour was a phenomenon that developed in the late sixteenth century and reached heights of extreme popularity in the eighteenth century. As part of their educations, young people (usually men but sometimes women as well) of upper class society were expected to take the ‘Grand Tour,’ a tour of the most important historical sites of Europe—Italy being the main attraction. As a result, there was an increased awareness of and interest in Classical art and history. Although the Grand Tour began as a phenomenon for wealthy Europeans, wealthy Americans made the tour as well.

Tags: [artistic influence](#), [enlightenment](#), [Neoclassicism](#), [the grand tour](#), [travel](#)