

Acts and Facts (Timeline Cards)		Artist Cards	Scientist Cards
Ongoing throughout Gainsborough's life	80 Ottoman Empire		
	87 Slave Trade in Africa		
	91 Spanish Inquisition		
	93 Age of Absolute Monarchs		
	101: Age of Enlightenment		
	<b>18: Thomas Gainsborough Born (1727)</b>	16: English Scientist Isaac Newton dies (1642 – 1727)	
98 Baroque Period of the Arts (ends) (1600-1750) <sup>1</sup>			
		19: American scientist-inventor Benjamin Banneker born (1731 – 1806)	
	19: Austrian Composer Franz Joseph Haydn born (1732 – 1809)		
103: First Great Awakening (1734 – 1750)			
		English Astronomer William Hershel born (1738 – 1822)( shared card with Caroline Hersehel.)	
	20: American Artist Chalres Wilson Peale born (1741 – 1827)		
	13: German Composer Johann Sebastian Bach dies (1685 – 1750)	20: English Astronomer Caoline Herschel born (1750 – 1848 ) (shared card with Wm. Hershel	
104: [Neo] Classical Period of the Arts (1750 – 1825) <sup>1</sup>			

<sup>1</sup> Periods of art were often labeled, dated, and defined years, if not centuries, after they “ended”. In the case of Baroque and Classical periods of art, the names rose in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, so even though these two periods “ended” and “began” in Gainsborough’s lifetime, he would not have been aware of it like that. The style of art and music changed gradually over his lifetime (in England, Gainsborough was the CAUSE of some of that change!) but there was no declaration of these styles of art being “over” or “beginning.” Same for the “Age of Enlightenment” and “Age of Industry;” these ages and definition were labeled after Gainsborough’s death. He would have been aware of the rise of science and industry, but would not have said, “I’m an early-Industrial-Era artist.”

105: Seven Years' War (1756 - 1763)	15: Austrian Composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart born (1756 – 1791)	
	14: German-English Composer George Frideric Handel dies (1685 – 1759)	
106: Age of Industry ( 1760 – ca. 1969)	(1761 – Mozart begins his world tours)	
107: James Cook Sails to Australia and Antarctica (1769 – 1779)		
	21: German Composer Ludwig Van Beethoven Born (1770 – 1827)	
108: American Revolution and General George Washington (1775 – 1783)		
		18: Swedish Scientist and Taxonomist Carl Linneaus dies (1707 - 1778)
		17: Dutch scientist Daniel Bernoulli dies (1700 – 1782)
	22: French-American Artist John James Audobon born ( 1785 – 1851)	
109: Madison's Constitution and the Bill of Rights (1787 – 1791) (ongoing when Gainsborough Dies)		
	<b>18: Thomas Gainsborough Dies (1788)</b>	
110: French Revolution (began 1789—year after Gainsborough dies)		

## Gainsborough has no art in the Timeline Cards.

Gainsborough is a Baroque-Classical Artist. Technically, many art historians place his art in the “Rococo Period,” a style of art that rose late in what we now call “Baroque” and early in the “Classical” period. Rococo, meaning “shell”, was based on light, brightly-colored paintings based on more pastel colors, frivolous or romantic subject matter, with little of the over-arching drama and dramatic lighting which marked the early Baroque artists like Rembrandt and Caravaggio. (It was, in fact, a rebellion against the Baroque style)

Other Rococo Artists include: Frenchman Jean-Honore Fragonard (great uncle to Impressionist painter Berthe Morisot), Frenchwoman (and court painter to Marie Antoinette) Elisabeth Vigee Le-Brun, English Equestrian Painter George Stubbs, and Thomas Gainsborough's infamous rival, English painter Sir Joshua Reynolds, (1723 – 1792), court painter and first president of the Royal Academy of Art.

[Neo] Classical Art, on the other hand, focused on a resurgence of the Greco-Roman aesthetic, which followed the re-discovery of the ruins of Herculaneum (1738) and Pompeii (1748). The influence of the Greco-Roman aesthetic meant art turned toward streamlined-symmetry, focusing on monumental moments, rather than Rococo's frivolous pleasures. Visual arts and Architecture are more often known as "Neo-Classical" (New-Classical), because the term "Classical" references Greco-Roman art and architecture. However, because even the best academics still struggle to re-create the music of the ancient world, "Classical" describes music of the 18<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Other works of art from around Gainsborough's lifetime in the Timeline Cards:

- **2: Creation and the Fall : Expulsion of Adam and Even from Paradise; Benjamin West, 1791**
  - Benjamin West (1728 – 1820) a "British North American" artist was born in Pennsylvania, went on the Grand Tour to Italy from 1760 – 1763, and stopped "briefly" in England in 1763 on his way back home to the colonies. That "brief stop" lasted the rest of West's life. Entirely self-taught in painting West painted monumental historical scenes, and was so well-admired for his art, he helped found the Royal Academy of Arts, and became its second president after Sir Joshua Reynolds (Gainsborough's main rival) passed away. Despite this exalted position for an artist, he could barely spell because he never bothered to self-teach that! Because West was born in Pennsylvania while it was a British Colony, and a resident of Britain through and after the Revolutionary War, both the United States and Britain claim him.
- **20: Greek Dark Ages; "Eteocles and Polynices", by Giovanni Battiste Tiepolo; 1725 – 1730**
  - Tiepolo (1695 – 1770) is considered one of the greatest interior painters in the Rococo style. He lived in Italy, but worked all over Europe. Despite being categorized as a Rococo artist, Tiepolo painted many works which foreshadowed the Classical genre, including scenes of the classical world or Greco-Roman myths and history.
- **33: Golden Age of Greece; "Death of Socrates" [detail] by Jacques-Louis David, 1787**
  - Jacques-Louis David (1748 – 1825) was the preeminent French Neo Classical painter and politician of the French Revolution and Napoleonic eras. David was a close friend of Robespierre and was arrested at the end of Robespierre's Reign of Terror. He managed to be sick long enough to avoid being executed, and soon befriended Napoleon, who David greatly admired. After the restoration of the French Monarchy following the Battle of Waterloo, David exiled himself to Brussels in protest to the restoration of the old system he'd originally fought against (despite King Louis XVIII (18<sup>th</sup>) giving David a full pardon for his role in the Reign of Terror and execution of King Louis's older brother, executed King Louis XVI (16<sup>th</sup>))
- **44: Pentecost and the Early Church; Pentecost" by Istvan Dorffmaister, 1782**
  - Stephen Dorfmaister (ca1729 – 1797) was an Austrian artist who primarily worked in modern Hungary. He was a painter and frescoist (a painter who paints directly on a building's wall or ceiling in damp plaster. The Sistine Chapel is an example of a fresco

painting) who worked for the church and the nobility of the area. Sadly, subsequent wars and disasters have destroyed much of his work.

- **47: Diocletian Divides the Roman Empire; “The Ruins of the Palace of the Emperor Diocletian”;**  
**Engraver Robert Adam; 1764**
  - English Architect Robert Adam (1728 – 1792) was influential in his designs of buildings and their surrounding landscapes. Trained as an architect by his father, Scottish Architect William Adam, Robert was expected to follow in the family firm despite the fact he preferred drawing and painting. From 1754- 1758, Adam went on the “Grand Tour,” the traditional post-college tour of Europe’s landmarks and ancient ruins for young men. Adam sketched many Roman ruins, including Diocletian’s ruined palace, which later influenced his architecture.
- **101: (In the Timeline above) Age of Enlightenment; “Portrait of Francois Mario Arouet, Called Voltaire” by Nicholas de Largilliere, 1718**
  - 1656 – 1746) Nicolas de Largilliere was a French-Catholic painter who painted many portraits of notable people and historical paintings. After failing in business, de Largilliere took up painting and soon came to the attention of Charles II of England. He was invited to stay as the official court painter, but Anti-Catholic sentiment was high, and de Largilliere chose to return to Catholic friendly France instead. There, he was admitted into the newly-formed **Académie Royale de Peinture et de Sculpture** ([French] Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture) and painted many portraits for the
- **103: (In the Timeline Above) “First Great Awakening”; George Whitefield by John Russell, ca. 1770**
  - John Russell (1745 – 1806) was an English Portraitist who painted a number of portraits of the great and powerful in late Georgian England. Several of his children, including his daughters, became painters as well. He converted to Methodism from Anglicanism when he was 19, and consequently, created a number of portraits of great names in Methodism, including Charles Wesley and this portrait of George Whitefield.
- **104: (In the Timeline Above) “Classical Period of the Arts” “The Peale Family (detail)” By Charles Wilson Peale, Ca. 1773**
  - Peale (1741 – 1827) was one of the first “American” artists. Born in Maryland, Peale traveled to London to be trained by Benjamin West (see card 2: Creation and the Fall and Card 105: The Seven Years’ War.) Unlike West, Peale returned to the colonies and soon became the first American-based painter to be internationally recognized. He painted George and Martha Washington’s portraits shortly before the Revolutionary War began and then fought in the war as a soldier. After Independence, he opened an art gallery which soon became a de-facto museum.(Exhibitions included specimens Lewis and Clark brought back from their expedition across the newly-purchased Louisiana Territory)
- **105: (In the Timeline Above) “The Seven Years’ War “Death of General Wolfe (detail)” By Benjamin West, 1770**
  - See Card 2, Above. This painting, however, was one of the most influential and well-known works West produced in his lifetime. When it first debuted, it was a scandal: history paintings at the time were either depicting Biblical or Classical events, or contemporary events were re-set to the Classical Greco-Roman world, not the

contemporary one. West took a contemporary event, the death of Gen. Wolfe at the 1759 Battle of Quebec, and created a massive historical painting set in contemporary clothes and symbolism to draw parallels from Gen Wolfe and ancient figures, including sacrificial heroes of the past. Before its debut, many artists and even King George III, tried to dissuade West from showing this painting, but the public response to it was so positive, West not only sold the original (now in a museum in Canada,) but received commissions for four additional copies, the last of which was from King George III himself. This painting is responsible for the emergence of romanticized portraits and paintings of contemporary events which were soon to come (“Washington Crossing the Delaware River,” by Emmanuel Leutze 1851; “Napoleon Crossing the Alps,” and “The Coronation of Napoleon,” By Jacques-Louis David; “The Declaration of Independence, 1776” by John Trumbull 1819; and so on...)