



**CALIFORNIA CONTENT  
STANDARD 10.6.4**

# Artists in the West After World War I

**Specific Objective:** Discuss the influence of World War I on literature, art, and intellectual life in the West (e.g., Pablo Picasso, the “lost generation” of writers).

**Read the summary and the chart to answer questions on the next page.**

The years after World War I brought an outpouring of creative work. Many artists and thinkers felt cynical about the past, and sought new means of expressing themselves. Some composers experimented with harsh combinations of sounds; some painters explored the idea that things are not what they seem. Many of these means of expression had emerged around the turn of the century, but the war accelerated their development.

The term “**lost generation**” describes a group of **American writers in Paris** after the war, including **Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Gertrude Stein**. Their writing sometimes conveyed a sense of loss and meaninglessness. The term “lost generation” is also used in a general way to describe those who grew up during the war, saw the old ideals fail, and had to work to find new meaning in an unstable world.

Art	
Rebelled <i>against</i> . . .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• realistic styles, traditional compositions</li> </ul>
Explored . . .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• world of dreams and fantasy</li> <li>• seeing shapes in new ways</li> </ul>
Famous Figures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pablo Picasso (Spain)</li> <li>• René Magritte (France)</li> </ul>

Architecture	
Rebelled <i>against</i> . . .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• grand structures designed for old empires</li> </ul>
Explored . . .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• machine-age materials (glass, steel, concrete)</li> <li>• efficient and cost-effective design</li> </ul>
Famous Figures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Le Corbusier (France)</li> <li>• Walter Gropius (Germany)</li> </ul>

Literature	
Rebelled <i>against</i> . . .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• romantic idealism, easy solutions</li> </ul>
Explored . . .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• feelings of loss and fear</li> <li>• new ways of using old literary forms</li> </ul>
Famous Figures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• James Joyce (Ireland)</li> <li>• Ernest Hemingway (United States)</li> </ul>

Music	
Rebelled <i>against</i> . . .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• regular rhythms, traditional compositions</li> </ul>
Explored . . .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• irregular rhythms</li> <li>• improvisational and dissonant forms</li> </ul>
Famous Figures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Igor Stravinsky (Russian)</li> <li>• American jazz musicians</li> </ul>



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## *Artists in the West After World War I*

**Directions:** Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

Use the quotation to answer questions 1 and 2.

In the post-World War I novel, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, a young soldier named Paul says of the older generation:

“The idea of authority, which they represented, was associated in our minds with a greater insight and a more humane wisdom. But the first death we saw shattered this belief.”

—from *All Quiet on the Western Front*,  
Erich Maria Remarque

**1 What common post-World War I literary theme is characterized by Paul in the quotation from *All Quiet on the Western Front*?**

- A Poor military leadership had created a war that could not be won.
- B Young soldiers were lured to die in battle under false pretenses.
- C The horrors of war destroyed the young soldiers’ trust in their elders.
- D Life on the battlefield meant that soldiers rarely saw their leaders.

**2 Which emotion *best* describes *both* Paul’s words in the quotation, and “lost generation” literature in general?**

- A patriotism
- B terror
- C relief
- D disillusionment

**3 After World War I, many artists, architects, writers, and musicians rejected**

- A government funding.
- B traditional styles.
- C cultural change.
- D their own feelings.

**4 What project would *likely* be chosen by a European architect, such as Le Corbusier or Gropius, after World War I?**

- A a luxury apartment building decorated with carved limestone
- B a splendid monument honoring the new state leadership
- C a space-efficient dormitory built of steel and glass
- D the restoration of a palace that was damaged in the war

**5 The “lost generation” of writers who gathered in Paris were considered “lost” because**

- A the war had left them with a sense of meaninglessness.
- B they wrote about soldiers who were unable to return home.
- C their homes were destroyed in the war.
- D shifting boundaries meant they no longer lived in their nations of origin.