

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-art-history/early-europe-and-colonial-americas/renaissance-art-europe-ap/v/raphael-school-of-athens>

<http://totallyhistory.com/school-of-athens/>

Artist: Raphael

Title: School of Athens

Date: 1510-1511

Location: Florence Italy

*School of Athens* is one of a series of four frescoes painted by Raphael representing branches of knowledge. The frescoes, located on the walls, include images descriptive of philosophy, poetry, law, and theology. *School of Athens* is dedicated to philosophy as a path to knowledge, especially related to understanding causes to drive knowledge. All of the philosophers shown in the fresco traditionally sought knowledge through an understanding of root causes. The overall theme of knowledge is integrated through Raphael's frescos around the room but *School of Athens* is considered the best of the series. The fresco itself includes 21 distinct figures set against a backdrop of a school. The figures are engaged in conversation, work or games. All of the figures are male and are believed to represent all significant Greek philosophers. Raphael and Michelangelo did not like each other, the pope had commissioned both painters to work in the Vatican at the same time but in different rooms. They refused to see each other's works. Raphael eventually gave in and visited Michelangelo's Sistine chapel. It is said that Raphael walked right back to his painting and painted Michelangelo front and center in *School of Athens*, because he was in awe of what he saw. Raphael also included himself mingling with the great scholars (he is the only one looking at us).

