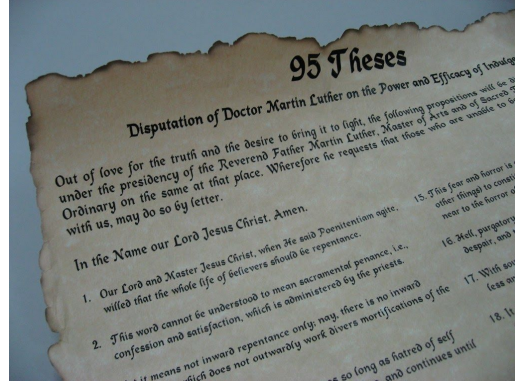


THE RENAISSANCE NOTES



INTRODUCTION

Michelangelo rushed from the Vatican. He yanked tight the straps of his saddle and flung himself onto his horse. No one treated him like that, he swore silently. Not even the pope! Within moments, Michelangelo was galloping out of Rome's northern gate, homeward bound toward Florence. As he rode, the great artist thought about the scene that had just ended in the Vatican. He could not believe that Pope Julius II had rejected the project they had planned so carefully for years. Even more humiliating, the pope had had Michelangelo thrown out by a groom!

Before long, the pope and the artist forgot their quarrel, and the pope set Michelangelo to work on an even greater project. He would create a huge mural to decorate the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican. It was an enormous task. For four years, Michelangelo lay on his back on a wooden platform suspended just a few inches below the chapel ceiling. Paint dripping in his face, he painstakingly illustrated the biblical history of the world, from the Creation to the Flood.



(the Creation)

The Renaissance

The Renaissance was a time of REBIRTH in creativity in Europe in the 1300s. It brought change in many areas - political (government), social (people), economic (business, trade, money), and cultural (traditions in art, literature, etc.). Most important however, were the changes in the way that the people viewed themselves and their world. During this time, there was a renewed interest in classical learning, especially the culture of ancient Rome. This was a time of rebirth after the disorder and disunity of the Middle Ages.

Some elements of the Middle Ages remained however. After all, the Middle Ages had preserved much of the classical heritage. Latin had survived as the language of the Church and of educated people. Mathematics of Euclid, the astronomy of Ptolemy, and the works of Aristotle were well preserved as well and carried on into the Renaissance.

Yet the Renaissance did produce new attitudes toward culture and learning. Unlike medieval scholars, who debated the nature of life after death, Renaissance thinkers were eager to explore the richness and variety of human experience in the here and now. At the same time, there was a new emphasis on individual achievement. Indeed, the Renaissance ideal was the person with talent in many fields.

The Renaissance supported a spirit of adventure and a wide-ranging curiosity that led people to explore new worlds. Columbus, who sailed to the Americas in 1492, represented that spirit. So did Nicolaus Copernicus, the scientist who revolutionized the way people viewed the universe. Renaissance writers and artists, eager to experiment with new forms, were also products of that adventurous spirit.

Italian Beginnings

The Renaissance began in Italy in the mid-1300s, then spread north to the rest of Europe. It reached its height in the 1500's. It began in Italy because Italy was the center of ancient Roman history. Architectural remains, antique statues, coins and inscriptions were all visible reminders to Italians of the "glory that was Rome." Italy also differed from the rest of Europe, as its cities had survived the Middle Ages. In the north, cities like Florence, Milan, Venice, and Genoa grew into prosperous centers of trade and manufacturing. Rome, in central Italy, and Naples in the south, also contributed to the Renaissance cultural revival. Finally, a wealthy and powerful merchant class in these city-states further promoted the cultural rebirth. These merchants exerted both political and economic leadership, and their attitudes and interests helped to shape the Italian Renaissance. They stressed education and individual achievement. They also spent lavishly to support the art.

Florence and the Medicis

The city of Florence, perhaps more than any other city, came to symbolize the Italian Renaissance. Florence was home to many gifted poets, artists, architects, scholars, and scientists in a short space of time.

In the 1400s, the Medici family of Florence organized a banking business. The business prospered, and the family expanded into wool manufacturing, mining and other ventures. Soon, the Medicis ranked amongst the richest merchants and bankers in Europe. This money gave the family cultural and political power. Cosimo de'Medici gained control of the Florentine government in 1434, and the family continued as uncrowned rulers of the city for many years.

Best known of all the Medicis was Cosimo's grandson, Lorenzo. He was a generous **patron**, or financial supporter of the arts. Poets and philosophers frequently visited the Medici palace. Artists like Michelangelo learned their craft by sketching ancient Roman statues collected in the Medici gardens.

Humanism

At the heart of the Renaissance was an intellectual movement known as **humanism**. Humanism focused on worldly subjects rather than on religious issues that had occupied medieval thinkers. Humanist scholars hoped to use the wisdom of the ancients to increase their understanding of their own times.




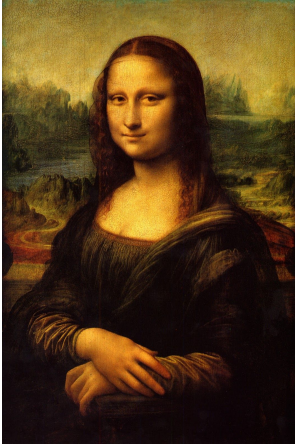
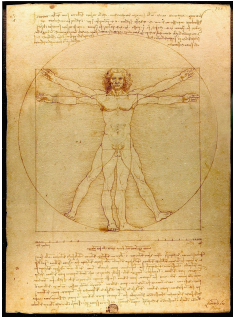




Renaissance art reflected humanist concerns. Like artists of the Middle Ages, Renaissance artists portrayed religious figures such as Mary, Jesus, and the saints. However, they often set these figures against Greek or Roman backgrounds. Painters also produced portraits of well-known figures of the day, reflecting the humanist interest in individual achievement.

Renaissance artists learned the rules of **perspective**. By making distant objects smaller than those close to the viewer, artists could paint scenes that appeared three-dimensional. They also used shading to make objects look round and real. Renaissance artists studied human anatomy and drew from live models. This made it possible for them to portray the human body more accurately than medieval artists had done.



Leonardo DaVinci, *The Virgin of the Rocks*

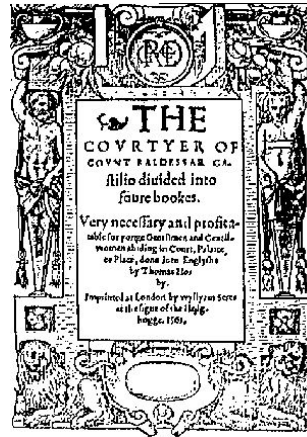
Renaissance Artists

<p>Leonardo DaVinci</p> 	<p>Michelangelo</p> 	<p>Raphael</p> 
<p>-Born in 1452. -Most popular painting is the <i>Mona Lisa</i>.</p>  <p>-Made sketches of nature and models of undersea boats and flying machines -Dissected corpses (dead bodies) to learn how bones and muscles work</p> 	<p>-Sculptor, engineer, painter, architect, poet -He shaped stone into masterpieces like <i>Pieta</i>, which captures the sorrow of Mary as she cradles the dead Christ on her knees.</p>  <p>-He also sculpted <i>David</i>, a statue of the biblical shepherd who killed the giant Goliath</p> 	<p>-Studied the works of DaVinci and Michelangelo -Blended Christian and classical styles -Well-known for <i>School of Athens</i>, pictures of an imaginary gathering of great thinkers and scientists, including Plato, Aristotle, and Socrates. In this painting, Raphael includes his face, DaVinci's face, and Michelangelo's face.</p>  <p>-Best known for his tender portrayal of the madonna</p> 

Renaissance Writers

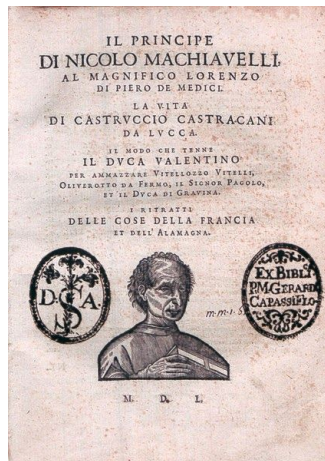
Poets, artists, and scholars met and mingled with politicians at the courts of the Renaissance rulers. A literature of “how to” books sprang up to help ambitious men and women who wanted to rise in the Renaissance world.

Baldassare Castiglione



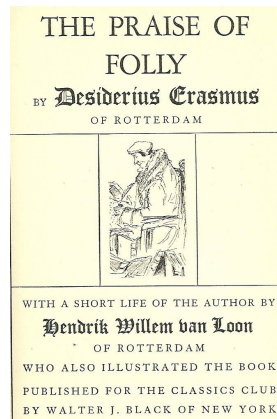
The most widely read book during the Renaissance was *The Book of the Courtier*. Castiglione's ideal courtier was a well-educated, well-mannered aristocrat who has mastered many fields, from poetry to music to sports. The ideal differed for men and women. The ideal man is athletic, but not overactive. He is good at games, but not a gambler. He plays a musical instrument and knows literature and history, but he is not arrogant. The ideal woman offers a balance to men. She is graceful and kind, lively but reserved. She is pure but not prudish. She is beautiful.

Niccolo Machiavelli



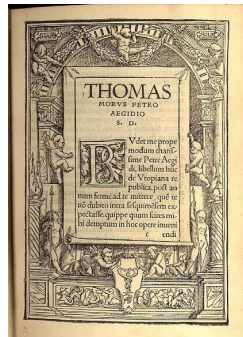
Machiavelli wrote a different kind of handbook. He served Florence as a diplomat and had observed kings and princes in foreign courts. He also had studied ancient Roman history. In *The Prince*, published in 1513, Machiavelli combined his personal experiences of politics with his knowledge of the past to offer a guide to rulers on how to gain and maintain power. He took a look at real rulers in an age of ruthless power politics. He stressed that the end justifies the means. He urged rulers to use whatever methods were necessary to achieve their goals.

Desiderius Erasmus



Erasmus was a Dutch humanist who used his knowledge of classical languages to produce a new Greek edition of the New Testament and a much-improved Latin translation of the same text. He also called for a translation of the Bible into the everyday language of the people. Erasmus also called for reforms (changes) in the Church. He challenged the worldliness of Church practices and urged a return to early Christian traditions. His best known work is *The Praise of Folly*. In this work, he uses humor to expose the ignorance and immoral behavior of many people of his day, including the clergy (church officials).

Sir Thomas More



An English humanist, Sir Thomas More wrote *Utopia*, which describes an ideal society, where men and women live in peace and harmony. Private property does not exist in More's utopia. No one is idle, all are educated, and justice is used to end crime rather than to eliminate the criminal.

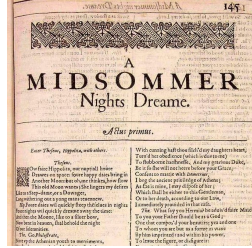
Francois Rabelais



A French humanist, Rabelais had a varied career as a monk, physician, Greek scholar, and author. In his novel, *Gargantua and Pantagruel*, he chronicles the adventures of two gentle giants,

Gargantua and his son, Pantagruel. On the surface, Rabelais’s book is a comic adventure of travel and war. But, he uses his characters to offer opinions on a wide variety of serious subjects, such as education and religion.

William Shakespeare



Shakespeare was an English poet and playwright. Between 1590 and 1613, he wrote 37 plays that are still performed around the world. Shakespeare’s comedies, such as ***A Midsummer Night’s Dream***, laughs at the follies and joys of young people in love. His history plays, such as ***Richard III***, chronicle the power struggles of English kings. His tragedies show human beings crushed by powerful forces or their own weakness. In ***Romeo and Juliet***, two teenagers fall victim to an old family feud. In ***Othello***, a noble warrior is driven mad by jealousy. In ***Macbeth***, he depicts an ambitious couple whose desire for political power leads them to commit murder.

Miguel de Cervantes



Best known for his entertaining tale that mocks romantic notions of medieval chivalry called ***Don Quixote***. The novel follows the adventures of Don Quixote, a foolish but idealistic knight, and his faithful servant, Sancho Panza. Quixote imagines himself involved in one dangerous adventure after another. Panza tries without success to convince the knight that the “castles” he sees are really humble inns and the “jousting knights” that he tries to fight are in fact windmills. Quixote, however, is unable to understand the modern world, which requires the skills of practical men like Sancho Panza rather than those of romantic and battle-ready knights.

The Printing Press

The great works of the Renaissance reached a large audience. The way this was possible is through the development of printing in Europe.

The Chinese had learned to make paper and had printed books centuries earlier. By 1300, methods of papermaking had reached Europe. By the 1400s, German engravers had developed movable type. In 1456, Johann Gutenberg of Mainz, Germany, printed a complete

edition of the Bible using movable metal type. With the Gutenberg Bible, the European age of printing had begun.

The printing revolution brought many changes. Books printed with movable type on rag paper were cheaper and easier to produce than hand-copied works. As books became more readily available, more people learned to read and write. They also gained access to a broad range of knowledge as presses churned out books on topics from medicine and law to astrology, mining, and geography.

Assignment #1 - Reading Questions

Read the notes on the Renaissance and Reformation closely. Then, answer the following questions in a Google Doc. Share it with me upon completion (kwelgoss@wscschools.org). Be sure to *clearly label* your work.

1. Read the introduction, and then read the quote below. Who is speaking in this quote, and what is he describing?

*My stomach is thrust toward my chin,
My beard curls up toward the sky,
My head leans right over onto my back . . .
The brush endlessly dripping onto my face . . .
I am bent as a Syrian bow.*

2. What is meant by a *renaissance*? In what ways did Europe experience a renaissance in the 1300s? Provide an example.
3. What are the 3 main reasons that the Renaissance began in Italy?
4. Why did the Medici family have so much influence during the Renaissance? What is a patron?
5. What is *humanism*? How was it reflected in art?
6. What is *perspective*? How was it used in art?
7. Who were the main artists of the Renaissance? Identify and describe one contribution each of the 3 artists made.
8. Who were the main writers of the Renaissance? Identify and describe the literary works of 3 Renaissance writers of your choice. Be sure to identify one piece of literature they created, and describe what that piece of literature was about.
9. What are the 3 changes that the printing revolution made?
10. Take some time to watch Khan Academy's video on Renaissance art.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xf2G2II8crw>

Assignment #2 - Review Quiz

Study your notes on the Renaissance. Using what you've learned, answer the following questions for review. Be sure to carefully number your questions in your Google Doc. Share your answers with me upon completion.

1. What does the word Renaissance refer to?
 - a. a period of renewed interest in the arts, based on the Classical period of Greece & Rome
 - b. a series of wars between competing Italian city-states
 - c. a breakout of infectious diseases that wiped out millions of people
 - d. the migration of Italians to the New World

2. What was Humanism?
 - a. a march of masses of people with the intent to visit the birthplace of Jesus Christ
 - b. a way of thinking that focuses on worldly subjects rather than on the religious issues that occupied medieval thinkers
 - c. the practice of humans devoting all of their time to the practice of their religion, at the expense of all other activities
 - d. a worldwide movement to improve people's physical fitness during the 15th and 16th Centuries

3. What made the Italian City-States unique and important, compared to other European cities, during the Renaissance Period?
 - a. the city-states were self-governing and conducted their own trade.
 - b. the city-states were centrally located in Italy, in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea region, where people from all over Europe came to trade and do their banking.
 - c. the city-states were able to establish guilds of craftsmen, who were talented in making a variety of goods
 - d. all of the above

4. Which of these was NOT true about the city of Florence during the Renaissance?
 - a. it was the center of banking in Europe.
 - b. it was the home, at one time, of Leonardo Da Vinci and Michelangelo, as well as other artists
 - c. architecture and statuary flourished in the city
 - d. people who wished to practice Humanism were prohibited from doing so with the city's borders.

5. What were some of the main goals of painters in Florence during the Renaissance Period?
 - a. painters were trying to make their subjects in the paintings look flat and unemotional.
 - b. painters were trying to make their backgrounds in the paintings look unrealistic.
 - c. painters were trying to make their subjects look real, in lifelike poses, and show emotion.
 - d. None of the above

6. Which artist sculpted the best-known Renaissance Period statue of David?
- Michelangelo
 - Leonardo Da Vinci
 - Raphael
 - Caravaggio
7. Renaissance painters discovered the concept of perspective, and were able to show it in their works. Which choice best describes perspective?
- the flattening of the subject in the painting to appear two-dimensional
 - using only one solid color behind the main subjects
 - using only dark colors in the foreground
 - creating the appearance of depth; the appearance of three dimensions
8. Which family in Florence, had a profound impact on finance, as well as Renaissance art and culture, due to their great wealth and power?
- the Medici Family
 - the Vespucci Family
 - the David Family
 - the Georgiano Family
9. Which group served as the greatest patron of the arts during the Renaissance Period?
- fishermen
 - doctors
 - the Catholic Church
 - university professors
10. Niccolo Machiavelli was both a statesman and historian in Florence. He wrote a famous book about politics, leaders of government, and the way they led. What is the name of this book?
- The Prince
 - All Hail the King!
 - The Power of the Pope
 - Ascending to the Throne
11. Renaissance ideas were spread through trade (people doing business), travel (people going to new places), and education (people teaching new ideas and skills to each other). Which invention of the Renaissance Period helped most to spread ideas and discoveries?
- long lasting oil paints
 - the printing press with movable type (metal letters)
 - wooden ships
 - taller church buildings with balconies overlooking an entire city

12. For which of these achievements is Renaissance artist/scientist/inventor Leonardo Da Vinci given credit?

- a. developing the concept of the underwater diving suit
- b. envisioning an early model of a parachute
- c. designing war machines to attack enemy armies and defend soldiers
- d. all of the above

13. Michelangelo spent almost four years painting what part of the Sistine Chapel?

- a. the ceiling
- b. the inside walls
- c. the outside walls
- d. the floor

14. Most great artists of the Renaissance Period were apprentices early in their careers. What is an apprentice?

- a. someone who studies under a master artist to learn techniques
- b. someone who was so poor that he had to steal from an owner of a business
- c. someone who teaches others the finer points of a craft
- d. Someone who refuses to learn

15. What were Renaissance Period poet and playwright William Shakespeare said to have written?

- a. the play, Romeo and Juliet
- b. poems called sonnets
- c. works of comedy and tragedy
- d. all of the above