Renaissance and Reformation

Major changes in Europe caused the medieval period to give way to a new period. As trade with the East increased, Europeans re-discovered the classical knowledge of ancient Greece and Rome. This knowledge led to a period of creativity and learning called the Renaissance. A new focus on the individual emerged, contributing to new ideas about religion. These ideas caused a struggle in Christianity known as the Reformation.

Theme Migration and Diffusion
The migration of people and the diffusion of ideas have encouraged the development of a more global culture. In this chapter you will read about the diffusion of ideas that changed the cultural and religious lives of Europeans after the Middle Ages.
Click the icon to play "Listen to History" audio.

Click the icon below to connect to the Interactive Maps.

Map of Europe, c. 1300:
- Trading Cities of Italy: By the 1300s, the Italian city-states of Florence, Genoa, Milan, and Venice had grown into large and wealthy trading centers.
- Religion in Europe: In the 1300s, almost all of Europe was Catholic. The center of the Catholic Church was Rome, where the pope lived.
- Trade with Asia: Trade routes linked Europe to China, India, and other parts of Asia.

Interactive feature:
- "EUROPE. C. 1300" map with various city-states and trade routes labeled.
- "Trade routes" and "Religion in Europe" labels on the map.
Main Idea
In Italy the growth of wealthy trading cities and new ways of thinking helped lead to a rebirth of the arts and learning. This era became known as the Renaissance.

Reading Focus
• What changes in society and in cities stimulated the beginning of the Renaissance?
• What ideas formed the foundation of the Italian Renaissance?
• What contributions did artists make to the Renaissance?
Renaissance and Reformation

Section 1

The Beginning of the Renaissance

Michelangelo’s painting was different from the art of the Middle Ages, and only one way in which European society began changing after the 1300s.

Changes in Society

- 1300, Black Death, starvation, warfare had overtaken Europe
- Catastrophic events, enormous loss of life may have led to changes of the 1300s
- Decrease in population led to:
  - Increase in food production
  - Decline in food prices
  - More money to spend
  - Specialization in products

The Rise of City-States

- Urban areas specialized, particularly in Italy
- Italy divided into several large city-states in north, various kingdoms, Papal States south
- Catholic Church, nobles, merchants, artisans dominated society in city-states
- Many sought to display new wealth with knowledge of arts
Venice

- With access to sea, Venice built economy, reputation on trade
- Had long history of trading with other ports on Mediterranean Sea
- Shipbuilding prospered, sailors traveled to Near East
- Wealthy Venetian merchants built unique city, “work of art”

Milan, Florence

- Milan, west of Venice, based economy on agriculture, silk, weapons
- Florence, to south, famous for banking, cloth
- Monarchs appealed to Florentine bankers for money to fund wars
- Merchants refined raw wool into fine cloth
- Bankers, merchants created city to rival any in Europe
Find the Main Idea

How did society and cities change in the 1300s?

**Answer(s):** Specialization in agriculture increased, resulting in more trade; urban areas became centers of commerce; merchants and artisans became important; some cities became displays of wealth.
Renaissance and Reformation

Section 1

Renaissance Ideas

As the economy and society changed, new ideas began to appear. This period of interest and developments in art, literature, science and learning is known as the Renaissance, French for “rebirth.”

Inspiration from the Ancients
- Venetian ships carried goods for trade and Greek scholars seeking refuge
- Scholars brought ancient works thought to be lost

New World of Ideas
- Italians who could read looked for more information
- Read Arabic translations of original texts
- Searched libraries, found lost texts

Different Viewpoints
- As they read, began to think about philosophy, art, science in different ways
- Began to believe in human capacity to create, achieve
Renaissance and Reformation

Section 1

Humanism

**Humanities**
- Interest in ancient Greek, Roman culture
- Characteristics of good education
- Scholastic education gave way to classics: rhetoric, grammar, poetry, history, Latin, Greek
- Subjects came to be known as humanities, movement they inspired known as **humanism**
- Humanists emphasized individual accomplishment

**Roots**
- Roots traced to work of Dante; work contained glimpses of what would become focus on human nature
- Historians believe Renaissance began with two humanists who lived after Dante—Giovanni Boccaccio, Francesco Petrarch
- Both wrote literature in everyday language not Latin
- Advances were made in medicine, as well as astronomy
Early 1500s life in Italy seemed insecure, precarious.
The Church no longer served as a source of stability, peace.
A new form of humanism developed from Petrarch’s ideas; its focus was **secular**, worldly rather than spiritual.

**Service**

- Humanists argued that individual achievement, education could be fully expressed only if people used their talents, abilities in service of cities.

**Renaissance Man**

- Ideal Renaissance man came to be “universal man,” accomplished in classics, but also a man of action, who could respond to all situations.
Renaissance and Reformation

Section 1

Examples of Renaissance Men

How to Act
- Italian diplomat Baldassare Castiglione wrote book, *The Courtier*
- Described how perfect Renaissance gentleman, gentlewoman should act
- Book includes fictional conversation between duke, guests

Castiglione’s Advice
- Castiglione gave nobles new rules for refined behavior in humanist society
- Speak of serious, as well of amusing subjects; know Latin, Greek
- Be well-acquainted with poetry, history; be able to write prose, poetry

How to Rule
- Philosopher, statesman Niccolò Machiavelli also wrote influential book
- Experiences with violent politics influenced opinions on how governments should rule in *The Prince*
Machiavellian advice seemed to encourage harsh treatment of citizens, rival states

- Describes men as “ungrateful, fickle, liars, and deceivers”
- Advises rulers to separate morals from politics
  - Power, ruthlessness more useful than idealism
  - Ruler must do whatever necessary to maintain political power, even if cruel
- Machiavelli’s theory that “the end justifies the means” deviated from accepted views of correct behavior
- Idea that state an entity in itself, separate from its ruler, became foundation for later political philosophy
**Renaissance and Reformation**

### Section 1

**Science of the Renaissance**

**Scientific Information**
- Humanists searched archives, Arab translations for classical texts
- Discovered wealth of scientific information

**Scientific Challenges**
- Science soon became important avenue of inquiry
- Church’s teachings about world were challenged, particularly that Earth center of universe

**Natural World**
- Focus of Renaissance on human sciences, history, politics, geography
- New ideas about natural world began to be explored also

**Earth, Sun**
- Nicholas Copernicus said Sun was center of universe
- Galileo Galilei arrested by church officials for saying Earth orbited Sun
Causes of the Renaissance

- Increased trade with Asia and other regions as a result of the Crusades
- Growth of large, wealthy city-states in Italy
- Renewed interest in the classical learning of ancient Greece and Rome
- Rise of rich and powerful merchants, who became patrons of the arts
- Increased desire for scientific and technical knowledge
- Desire to beautify cities
Draw Conclusions

What were some important new ideas of the Renaissance?

Answer(s): inspiration from the ancient Greeks and Romans; humanism; secular focus; new theories in science
Renaissance and Reformation

Renaissance and Reformation

Section 1

Renaissance Art

The arts a reflection of the new humanist spirit

Medieval artists—idealized and symbolic representations

Renaissance artists depicted what they observed in nature

Patrons of the Arts

• Medieval times, anonymous artists who worked for church created art
• Renaissance artists worked for whoever offered them highest price
• Buyers of art, patrons, might be wealthy individuals, city governments, or church

Competition Among Patrons

• Wealthy individuals competed, displaying wealth, modernity through purchase of artworks
• Florence, Lorenzo de Medici supported most talented artists
• Milan, ruling Sforza family benefactors of artists, others

Renaissance artists wanted to paint the natural world as realistically as possible.
Renaissance and Reformation

Section 1

Styles and Techniques

**Artists Methods**
- Studied perspective, represented three-dimensional objects
- Experimented with using color to portray shapes, textures
- Subject matter changed; artists began to paint, sculpt scenes from Greek, Roman myths

**Classical Influence**
- Religious paintings focused on personality
- Humanist interest in classical learning, human nature
- Building design reflected humanist reverence for Greek, Roman culture
- Classical architecture favored
Leonardo da Vinci

- Highly talented in all fields
- His paintings are still studied and admired
- Wrote out ideas, filling 20,000 pages of notes
- His interests, enthusiasm boundless

Michelangelo

- Studied anatomy
- Age 24, won fame with *Pietà*, sculpture of Jesus’ mother Mary holding son’s dead body
- Sculpture communicates grief, love, acceptance, immortality

Sculpture, Painting

- Marble statue of *David*
- Most famous painting, artwork on ceiling of Sistine Chapel
- Scenes from Old Testament considered one of greatest achievements in art history
Michelangelo
## Renaissance and Reformation

### Other Artists

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Raphael</strong></th>
<th><strong>Bramante</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Raffaello Sanzio, became known as <strong>Raphael</strong></td>
<td>• Renaissance architecture reached height with work of Donato Bramante</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Renowned painter, accomplished architect</td>
<td>• Had already achieved fame when chosen architect of Rome</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Most famous work, <em>The School of Athens</em>, fresco—painting made on fresh, moist plaster</td>
<td>• Design for St. Peter’s Basilica influenced appearance of many smaller churches</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Also well known for many paintings of the Madonna, mother of Jesus</td>
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Raphael
Leonardo was born in Vinci and moved to Florence when he was 15. He was apprenticed to an artist, but Leonardo’s skill soon surpassed his master’s. He left for Milan, where he served the duke. While continuing as a painter, he advised the duke on architecture and weaponry.

Leonardo spent time in Milan, Florence, and Rome as power struggles gripped Italy. Today he is remembered for his masterful painting and for his wide-ranging knowledge of many topics, including anatomy, physics, and engineering.

**Analyze** How did Leonardo achieve fame?

**Compare and Contrast** How were the careers of these two artists alike and different?

Michelangelo considered himself a “son of Florence,” although he was born in Caprese. His father was an official who relied on the Medici family for support. As a young artist, Michelangelo studied in the Medici garden school.

When Lorenzo de Medici died in 1492, Florence was torn into political factions. Michelangelo’s art career became tied up with power struggles there and in Rome. The artist continued to receive important commissions, however, and to create what many consider to be the finest art in the world.

**Infer** Why was Michelangelo a successful artist?
Find the Main Idea

What was the ideal of Renaissance art?

Answer(s): capturing human personality, realism, human form