

The Renaissance

Map of Europe During the Renaissance

Name: _____ Date: _____

In this unit, you will learn about Europe during the Renaissance. Look carefully at the map. Color each city-state a different color. Draw a circle around Florence.



The Renaissance

Vocabulary

1. **Andreas Vesalius**—Belgian doctor from the Renaissance; father of human anatomy
2. **Atlantic Slave Trade**—the practice of selling enslaved Africans as a labor force in the Americas
3. **Bartolomeu Dias**—Portuguese explorer who sailed around the Cape of Good Hope
4. **Christopher Columbus**—Italian explorer who sailed to the West Indies
5. **circumnavigate**—to sail around the world
6. **Columbian Exchange**—the exchange of goods, ideas, and slaves between Europe and the Americas
7. **Counter-Reformation**—the movement of the Catholic Church against Protestantism
8. **excommunication**—the act of officially having your membership to a church revoked
9. **Ferdinand Magellan**—Portuguese explorer whose fleet was the first to circumnavigate the world
10. **Florence**—Italian city-state during the Renaissance; birthplace of Renaissance
11. **Galileo Galilei**—Italian scientist from the Renaissance
12. **Henry the Navigator**—Portuguese prince who funded many voyages during the Renaissance
13. **humanism**—intellectual movement of the Renaissance based upon studying the ancient Greeks and Romans
14. **indulgence**—a payment to the Catholic Church in return for the pardon of a sin
15. **Johann Gutenberg**—German inventor of the printing press
16. **Johannes Kepler**—German mathematician from the Renaissance
17. **Lutherans**—people who follow the teachings of Martin Luther
18. **Martin Luther**—German theologian from the Renaissance who founded Lutheranism

The Renaissance

Vocabulary (cont.)

19. **Michelangelo Buonarroti**—Italian artist and sculptor of the Renaissance
20. **Nicolaus Copernicus**—Polish astronomer from the Renaissance
21. **patron**—wealthy person who finances a work of art
22. **Petrarch**—Italian Renaissance scholar and father of humanism
23. **Protestants**—people who sought to reform the Catholic Church during the Renaissance
24. **Reformation**—the movement during the Renaissance to reform the Catholic Church
25. **Renaissance**—period of history between the 1300s and the 1600s
26. **Strait of Magellan**—narrow strip of water at the tip of South America that links the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans
27. **taboo**—a strong feeling in a culture against doing something in particular
28. **theologian**—a person who devotes his life to the study of his religion
29. **Triangular Trade**—the trade system that was used to sell enslaved Africans in the colonies
30. **Vasco da Gama**—Portuguese explorer who sailed to India

Rebirth in Europe

Brief #1

Focus

The Renaissance was a time of great achievements in the arts, science, navigation, and politics.

The Renaissance refers to a period of time in European history from about the 1300s to the 1600s. The Renaissance is the time that comes after the Middle Ages. The word *renaissance* means “rebirth” in French.

But what exactly was being reborn during the 14th, 15th, and 16th centuries? Basically, there was a renewed interest in the ancient world. You remember studying the ancient Romans and the Greeks. They made many important contributions to the development of civilization.

During the Middle Ages, people forgot about those great civilizations. For people in the Middle Ages, those times were in the distant past. No one really studied the great art, literature, or philosophy of the ancient world.



Italian City-States

In the 1300s, the Italian peninsula was a collection of powerful and influential city-states like Florence, Venice, and Milan. These places were the centers of trade and commerce. During the 1300s, many people in Italy became wealthy. Some of the wealthy became interested in art and learning. This was one way in which to show off how rich and successful they were.

The city-state of Florence is considered to be the birthplace of the Renaissance. In Italy during the Renaissance, people became interested in the ancient world. Part of the reason was that Italians could see the ruins of ancient Roman and Greek civilizations all over the place! Remember, the Italians of the 13th century were living in the exact same location that the ancient Romans occupied centuries before. Seeing these ruins motivated them to learn more about the past.

Vocabulary

1. Renaissance
2. Florence
3. Petrarch
4. humanism
5. patron
6. Michelangelo
7. Johann Gutenberg



Petrarch

During the early Renaissance, there were some individuals who had a big impact on how things changed. One of these people was Petrarch. Petrarch was an Italian poet and scholar. He is also called the father of humanism. **Humanism was an intellectual movement during the Renaissance that embraced and taught the literature, philosophy, and languages of the ancient Greeks and Romans.**

Rebirth in Europe

Brief #1 (cont.)



Petrarch (cont.)

The philosophies of the ancients were not Christian because the ancient Greeks and Romans lived (for the most part) before the time of Christianity. So using the philosophies of the ancients as a model for how to live was a completely new idea in the Renaissance. Petrarch was a respected and influential Renaissance scholar. He helped to spread the ideas of humanism.



The Medici Family

The Medici Family of Florence also had a great impact on the Renaissance in Italy. They were very rich and powerful. They ruled Florence in the 14th century. The Medici Family were also patrons of the arts. During the Renaissance, **a patron of the arts was a rich person who commissioned an artist to create a painting, sculpture, building, or other artistic work.** The Medicis were the patrons of many famous Italian Renaissance artists, including Michelangelo. **Michelangelo Buonarroti was an Italian Renaissance artist who created many magnificent works of art, including the statue of David and the painting of the Sistine Chapel.** The commissions of wealthy people like the Medicis fueled artistic output.



The Renaissance Spreads

Even though the Renaissance began in Florence in the 1300s, new ideas and the spirit of learning and knowledge spread across Europe. Up until the 1400s, new ideas and inventions spread around the world basically by word of mouth. **By 1455, a German named Johann Gutenberg invented something that changed the world forever. This invention was called the printing press.**

Prior to the printing press, books were copied and recopied by hand. Because copying a book took such a long time, there weren't that many copies of books around. Many, many people were illiterate, and the books that were available were very expensive. But Gutenberg's printing press used movable type. This meant that books could be printed much quicker and with greater accuracy. The availability of books meant that more people read, and this helped to spread the ideas of the Renaissance farther and faster.

Fast Fact

One of the first books that Gutenberg printed on his press was the Bible.

Rebirth in Europe

Brief #1 (cont.)



Science and Invention

The printing press was not the only major technological development of the time. Other Renaissance inventions included the clock, watch, telescope, and microscope.

Scientific thought and discovery underwent a transformation during the Renaissance. Up until the Renaissance, people believed and were taught that Earth was the center of the universe—that the Sun revolved around Earth! Of course, we know that it is the other way around. The Sun is in fact the center of our solar system, and all of the planets, including Earth, revolve around it.

In the 1500s, Polish scientist Nicolaus Copernicus proposed that the Sun was the center of the universe. The Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei agreed with Copernicus.

Galileo was a prominent scientist of the Renaissance. He was the first person to use a telescope to observe the sky. Unfortunately, the Catholic Church disapproved of Galileo's observations and teachings because they thought his ideas contradicted what was written in the Bible. He was put on trial and lived his life under house arrest. Galileo continued to work, conducting experiments and making other important scientific discoveries.

Johannes Kepler was a German mathematician of the Renaissance. Kepler founded the three laws of planetary motion. He also discovered that the moon influences the tides on Earth.

Andreas Vesalius is considered to be the father of human anatomy. Vesalius was a Belgian-born doctor. He was one of the first people to dissect a human body. Prior to Vesalius, most of the information doctors had about how the body worked and what it looked like on the inside was learned from the dissection of animals. This was because in many places it was against the law to dissect a human body. There were taboos surrounding human dissection. **A taboo is a strong feeling in a culture against doing something in particular.**

Much of this information that was available about human anatomy was wrong. Because Vesalius was willing to break taboos regarding the dissecting of cadavers, he published the first book on human anatomy that was based on real observation. His book gave the medical community the first reliable information about human anatomy.

Fast Fact

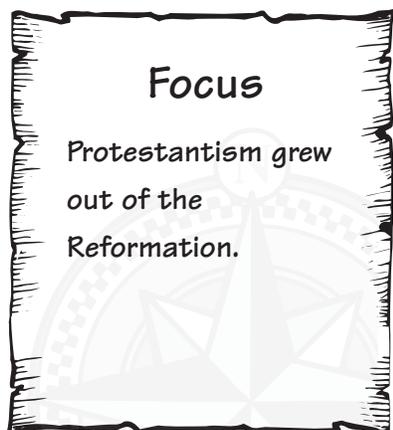
Galileo discovered the moons of Jupiter.

Vocabulary (cont.)

8. Nicolaus Copernicus
9. Galileo Galilei
10. Johannes Kepler
11. Andreas Vesalius
12. taboo

The Reformation

Brief #2



Up until the Renaissance, Christianity was split into two churches: the Catholic church and the Eastern Orthodox church. But during the Renaissance, the Catholic church would be split again.

During the Middle Ages, the Catholic Church had become very powerful and wealthy. One of the practices that developed during that time was the selling of indulgences. **An indulgence was a payment a person made to the church in return for a pardon for a sin that they committed.** In other words, if you had the money, you could pay the church to forgive your sins. The church, in turn, used this money to fund building projects. The practice of granting indulgences angered many people in the church.



Martin Luther

Martin Luther lived in the 14th and 15th centuries. He was a German monk and theologian. A theologian is a person who devotes his life to the academic study of his religion.

Luther believed that it was wrong for the church to raise money by selling indulgences. He believed that the only way for a Christian to be saved was to believe in Jesus Christ. Buying indulgences or even doing charitable works would not guarantee salvation.

This was the opposite of what the Catholic church taught. The church said that even if a person had faith, if he or she did not do charitable work, meaning contributing money to the church, then he or she would not be saved.

Luther had other ideas that were at odds with the Catholic church. He believed that ordinary people should read and interpret the Bible for themselves. Again, this was not what the Catholic church taught. The church taught that only the pope and members of the clergy had the right to do this.

Martin Luther wanted these issues to be discussed, but the church disagreed. They excommunicated Martin Luther. **Excommunication happens when someone has been officially asked to leave the church.**

People began to follow the teaching of Martin Luther. They became known as Lutherans.

Vocabulary

1. *indulgence*
2. *Martin Luther*
3. *theologian*
4. *excommunication*
5. *Lutherans*
6. *Reformation*
7. *Protestants*
8. *Counter-Reformation*

The Reformation

Brief #2 (cont.)



The Reformation

Another theologian, a French man named John Calvin, also sought to reform the Catholic church.

The movement to reform the Catholic church in the Renaissance is known as the Reformation. The people who sought to reform the church were called Protestants. And remember Guttenberg's press? It helped to spread ideas about reforming the church all across Europe.

The Catholic church responded to these challenges by convening the Council of Trent in 1545. At this council, important figures in the Catholic church attempted to reassert their authority by condemning the teachings of Martin Luther and John Calvin. **The movement of the Catholic church against Protestantism is called the Counter-Reformation.**

The challenges to the Catholic church and the formation of Protestant religions marked a major change in the history of Western civilization. Eventually, it would be groups of Protestants called Puritans who helped to colonize America.



Exploration During the Renaissance

Brief #3



During the Renaissance, exploration and trade increased. This was mostly because empires in Europe were looking for riches like gold, silver, spices, and other resources. They funded expeditions to all sorts of places to search for the best sea routes to Africa, Asia, and North America.



Portuguese Explorers

For many centuries, Europeans had been trading with empires in Asia and Africa. Traders from Europe traveled on land routes like the Silk Road. Once the Ottoman Turks conquered the Byzantine Empire, many of these traditional trade routes were closed to European traders. They needed to find another way to get to these continents. Just like today, trade among countries is a big part of many economies.

Prince Henry was a nobleman from Portugal. He wanted to find a sea route to Africa. He funded many voyages in the 1400s. **Although Henry himself never went on any voyages, his patronage opened up sea routes along the coast of Africa. This is why he has earned the name Henry the Navigator.** The Portuguese were able to establish trading colonies along the West African coast, which is also known as the Atlantic Coast.

Bartolomeu Dias was another Portuguese explorer. He was the first person to lead a European expedition to the Cape of Good Hope (1488), which is located at the southern tip of Africa. This was important because it was the first time that Europeans sailed from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indian Ocean.

Dias did not make it all the way to India, which was his goal. But in 1497, another Portuguese explorer did. **Vasco da Gama sailed all the way around the Cape of Good Hope to the country of India.**

Ferdinand Magellan had a theory that if you sailed around the southern tip of South America, you would eventually reach the continent of Asia. **In 1519, Magellan and a fleet of ships set out to prove his theory of circumnavigation. Circumnavigate means to sail around the world.** This had never been done before.

Vocabulary

1. Henry the Navigator
2. Bartolomeu Dias
3. Vasco da Gama
4. Ferdinand Magellan
5. circumnavigate
6. Strait of Magellan
7. Christopher Columbus
8. Columbian Exchange

Exploration During the Renaissance

Brief #3 (cont.)



Portuguese Explorers (cont.)

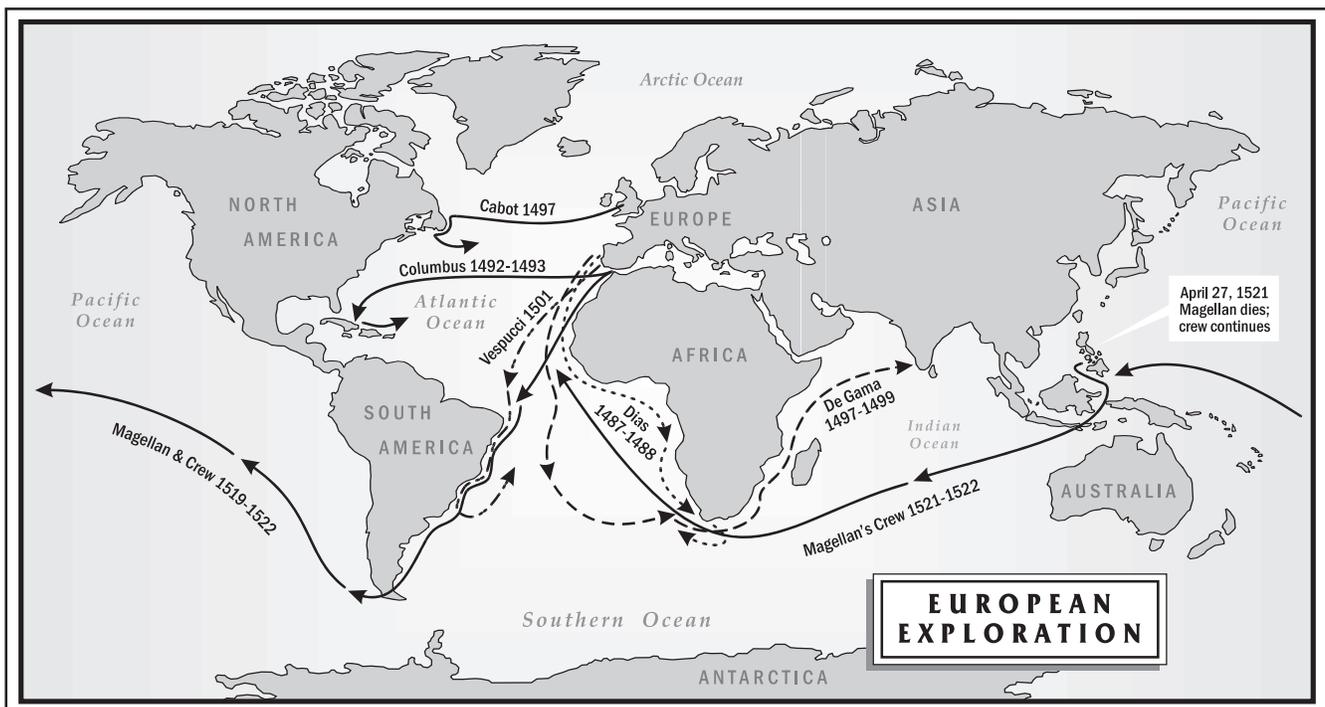
Magellan's fleet had five ships and a crew of 237 men. They sailed from Portugal and traveled west rounding the tip of South America. It was there that Magellan discovered a strait. A strait is a narrow passage of water through which ships can pass. **The Strait of Magellan links the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.**

Magellan was killed during this historic voyage, but part of his fleet managed to make it all the way around the world. In 1522, after a three-year voyage, one ship carrying 18 men returned to Spain.



Christopher Columbus

Christopher Columbus was a 15th century Italian explorer. Like the Portuguese, he was looking for new trade routes to places that had gold, spices, and many other natural resources. He was interested in traveling west to find a sea route that extended from Europe to Asia. In 1492, Columbus set out hoping to find this route. He never did. He landed in what we call the West Indies. **But the expeditions of Columbus began an exchange of goods between Europe and North America and South America, which is called the Columbian Exchange.**



Colonization During the Renaissance

Brief #4

Focus

The Atlantic Slave Trade was a negative result of European exploration and colonization.

During the Renaissance, European exploration expanded greatly. These explorers found new sea routes to places like Asia and Africa. Trade between all parts of the world opened up, but gold, silver, and other goods were not the only things that were bought and sold.



Colonization

European countries like Portugal, Spain, Holland, and England began to establish trading posts and eventually colonies in the places to which they traveled. These colonies were rich in natural resources. But many millions of people also lived in these places. They had been living there for thousands of years.

The Europeans converted native populations to Christianity. Many local populations of people got sick because of the diseases that the Europeans brought with them. Native populations had no immunity against things like smallpox. Thousands and thousands of them died. Colonization was very good for Europeans, but it had a negative impact on native populations in other parts of the world.

Vocabulary

1. Atlantic Slave Trade
2. Triangular Trade



Colonization During the Renaissance

Brief #4 (cont.)



The Atlantic Slave Trade

One of the greatest negative consequences of European exploration during the Renaissance was the development of the Atlantic Slave Trade. **The Atlantic Slave Trade was the European practice of buying and transporting imprisoned Africans from places in West Africa and forcing them to work in the colonies.**

When European colonies were first established in the America, the Europeans would often enslave the native people. But as the colonies grew, they needed a larger and larger workforce to harvest all of the natural resources that were available. In order to find enough people to work in the colonies, the Europeans started to purchase people from Africa.

The enslaved Africans were shipped to the West Indies. Slave traders would sell them in return for sugarcane. **The sugarcane was sent to New England and used in the production of other products, like rum. The slaves were then transported all over the Americas and forced to work. This system of trading was called the Triangular Trade.**

The Atlantic Slave Trade had a major impact on the development of English colonies and, as a result, the United States. The practice of slavery in America led directly to events like the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement, which took place centuries after slavery's inception.

