RENAISSANCE
An era of rebirth in the interests of classical learning.
Why study the Renaissance?

“It is fair to say that much of what we know today of painting and sculpture, of architecture and political science, of scientific method and economic theory, we owe to the artists, politicians, statesmen, bankers, and merchants of the Renaissance—that explosion of intellectual and artistic energy in Italy between 1300 and 1600. And Florentines stood at the turbulent center of the Renaissance.”  

World History: People and Nations.
The Italian Renaissance

Questions:
- How does the historian Burckhardt describe the Renaissance?
- How do other historians feel about Burckhardt's description?
- What conditions do you think made Italy ideal for the Renaissance—more so than elsewhere?
- What time frame is given for the Renaissance time period? What is significant about these dates?
Competing Views of the Renaissance

Burckhardt's Interpretations:
- new secular and scientific replace traditional religious belief
- reality observed with rational, objective, and statistical approach
- rediscover the importance of the individual and his/her artistic creativity.
Competing Views of the Renaissance

Critics of Burckhardt:
- too modernizing
- overlooks continuity between Middle Ages and Renaissance
- Christianity is still important and influential

*St. George* by Donatello
What is the Renaissance then?

Most agree on the following characteristics:

- Renewed interest in Latin and Greek texts
- Scientific thought and critical thinking
- Increased trade = greater wealth = flourishing of the arts
- Increased emphasis on the individual
- greater lay/secular control of thought and culture (including in religion)
Why Italy?

- Crossroads of Europe: favorable location for Eurasia trade

- Ruins of Rome served as reminders of greatness

- Access to classical texts through Byzantine scholars
Why Italy?

- Catholic Church headquarters in Rome
- Great wealth led to patronage of the arts—especially by despots.

St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome
When was the Italian Renaissance?

Start / End Dates:
- 1375 AD - Death of Petrarch "Father of Literary Humanism" and Boccaccio "Decameron" author

- 1527 AD - Sack of Rome by the Imperial Soldiers of Charles V (HRE)
The Italian City-States

How and why did the Italian city-states grow?

What were the principle city-states?

*Sketch a map in your notes...see page 319*
How did Italian City-States Grow?

Growth of City-States:
- Merchants increased in wealth from trade and new business skills
- Trade-rich cities absorbed surrounding countryside forming City-States
- Endemic warfare between Pope and Emperor focused on weakening each other = more difficult for a single, unified kingdom to emerge
- Mostly led to strong merchant oligarchies
How did Italian City-States Grow?

Five Major City-States

- Duchy of Milan
- Republic of Florence
- Republic of Venice
- The Papal States
- The Kingdom of Naples
The Italian City-State

How were the Italian city-states divided socially? How did this impact politics?

What role did despotism play in Florence? Elsewhere?

How did diplomacy impact in the Italian city-states?

Why in this particular environment did the arts begin to flourish?

The Baptistry of Florence
FLORENCE
- Rapid urban growth blended old nobility and new rich = constant conflict
  - Grandi “Old Rich - nobility and merchants who traditionally ruled
  - popolo grosso “fat people” – newly rich merchants and bankers
  - middle burgher “middle class” – smaller business operators side with the new rich
  - popolo minuto “little people” – lower economic class
Italian City-States Politics

Cosimo de' Medici (1389-1464 AD)

Lorenzo de' Medici (1449-1492 AD)

Condottieri
Despotism in Florence: The de’ Medici Family
- Most city-states were despotic because of social strife and political competition (Except Venice – Merchant Oligarchy)

Cosimo de’ Medici (1389-1464 AD)
– skill statesman who manipulated the constitution and elections of Florence
- restores order after the Ciompi Revolt 1378

Lorenzo the Magnificent (de’ Medici) (1449-1492 AD)
– Cosimo’s grandson ruled Florence as a totalitarian fashion
- cautious and determined ruler
Despotism Elsewhere = Less Disguised Than Florence

- **Podesta** or strongman hired to maintain law and order - given executive, military, and judicial control
- **Condottieri** or Military brokers supply mercenary armies to despots. (why?)
- **Goal:** maintain normal flow of business activity at all costs

**Diplomacy:**
- sent ambassadors
- Represent the city-state in negotiations / spying.
What three schools of thought exist on the meaning of **Humanism**? How would you define Renaissance humanism? Why?

Who were some of the first humanists? How were they different from the **Scholastics**?

Francesco Petrarch
(1304 - 1374 AD)
Educational Reforms

What were the goals of humanist studies?

What kind of subjects and values did early humanists embrace?

How did humanist learning impact society?

How does humanist learning compare with respect to today's education?

Pietro Paolo Vergerio (1349-1420 AD)

Christine de Pisan (1363?-1434 AD)
Definitions of Humanism

Humanism:
- 1\textsuperscript{st} View: un-Christian philosophy stressing human dignity, individualism, and secular values
- 2\textsuperscript{nd} View: champions of authentic Catholic Christianity—opposing pagan teachings of Aristotle and some scholastics.
- 3\textsuperscript{rd} View: form of scholarship to promote civic responsibility and political liberty
- 4\textsuperscript{th} View: emphasis on sound scholarship and rhetoric for their own sake (Paul O. Kristeller)
Renaissance Humanism

The Consensus:
- scholarly study of classical texts or primary source material: Latin, Greek, and of the Ancient Church Fathers
- *studia humanitatis* = liberal arts program of grammar, logic, rhetoric, poetry, history, politics, and moral philosophy
- learn for learning’s sake
- learning is ennobling
- dignity of human kind and lives of virtuous action.
The Renaissance Humanist

Who were they?
- poets and orators first and later scholars
- far more secular and lay oriented

The Renaissance Image of Man (Goals):
- be wise, speak eloquently, know what is good and practice virtue; not enough to know but must do
- was to be well-rounded and well-accomplished
Characteristics of a Humanist?
- far more secular and lay oriented
- mastered Latin and Greek languages
- went directly to the original source – critics of tradition (Scholastics)
- strove for accuracy and truthfulness
- promoted individual virtue and public service as if medicine for social ills of the times
Italian Humanist Writers

**Francesco Petrarch** (1304-1374 AD)
- “Father of Literary Humanism”
- Known for letters and sonnets (poetry)
- Criticized work of the Scholastics as useless
- Revealed tensions between study of the ancients and of Christianity

**Dante Alighieri** (1265-1321 AD)
- *Divine Comedy*
- less secular than Petrarch
- use of vernacular in writing

**Giovanni Boccaccio** (1313-1375 AD)
- *Decameron* – a stinging social commentary and sympathetic look at human behavior
Italian Humanist Writers

Christine de Pizan (1363 – 1431 AD)
- Educated at the French Court
- Advocate for women’s rights and equality

Baldassare Castiglione (1478-1529 AD)
- *The Book of the Courtier*
- A practical guide to court behavior
- Emphasized highest ideals of Italian humanism.
- courtesy and refined behavior
Italian Humanists

**Lorenzo Valla** (1406-1457 AD)
- accuracy and historical truthfulness
- Critically examine tradition
- Proved that the *Donation of Constantine* to be a fraud
- Found errors in the Latin Vulgate

*What was his impact on society?*
How does this quote reflect the ideals of Italian Humanism?

“I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Being willing is not enough; we must do.”

~Leonardo da Vinci
Who were some of the famous artistic figures of the period?

What did they have in common that might be described as “the spirit of the Renaissance”?

How did Renaissance Art break from the practices of the Middle Ages?
Renaissance Art: Da Vinci

Self Portrait
(c. 1515 AD)

Mona Lisa
(c. 1507 AD)

“There are three classes of people: those who see. Those who see when they are shown. Those who do not see.” Leonardo da Vinci
Renaissance Art: da Vinci

“I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Being willing is not enough; we must do.” Leonardo da Vinci
Renaissance Art: da Vinci

Vitruvian Man
(c. 1487 AD)
Renaissance Art: Michelangelo

La Pieta (c. 1499 AD) St. Peter's Basilica

The Deposition (c. 1550 AD) Florence
Renaissance Art: Michelangelo

Pope Julius II's Tomb
(c. 1505-c1545 AD)

“Captive”
Example of just having to release it from stone.

David (1501-1504)
Renaissance Art: Michelangelo

Sistine Chapel Frescoes in Rome, Italy. c.1503-13 AD
Renaissance Art: Michelangelo

Michelangelo: plan for the new St. Peter's, 1546

Palazzo dei Conservatori (begun 1538)
Renaissance Art: Raphael

The Betrothal of the Virgin
(c. 1504 AD)

Self-Portrait

The Granduca Madonna
(c. 1505 AD)
Renaissance Art: Raphael

The Madonna of the Chair
(c. 1514 -15 AD)

The Madonna of Loreto
Raphael’s “The School of Athens”
1: Zeno of Citium
2: Epicurus
3: Federico II of Mantua?
4: Anicius Manlius Severinus Boethius or Anaximander or Empedocles?
5: Saladin
6: Pythagoras
7: Alcibiades or Alexander the Great?
8: Antisthenes or Xenophon?
9: Hypatia (Francesco Maria della Rovere)
10: Aeschines or Xenophon?
11: Parmenides?
12: Socrates
13: Heraclitus (Michelangelo)
14: Plato (Leonardo da Vinci)
15: Aristotle
16: Diogenes
17: Plotinus?
18: Euclid or Archimedes with students (Bramante)?
19: Zoroaster
20: Ptolemy?
R: Apelles (Raphael)
21: Protogenes (Il Sodoma, Perugino, or Timoteo Viti)
Renaissance Art

Medieval Artwork:
- Stressed a world beyond everyday life, with religious subjects.
- Depicted formal and stylized figures.
- Background often times of the Holy Land.
- “Flat-looking” or lack of depth

Renaissance Artwork:
- Secular topics, human pursuits, mythology, religious still important.
- Focus on realistic and lifelike human figures.
- Linear Perspective, shadowing and depth.
- Naturalness, energy, life emphasized.
- Symmetry, balance, order.
A common assumption is that creative work proceeds best in periods of calm and peace. Given the combination of political instability and cultural productivity in Renaissance Italy, do think this argument is valid?

The French Invasions of Italy
(1494-1516 AD)
Italy's Political Decline

What was the Treaty of Lodi (1454-1455)? How did it end? Consequences?

What role did each of the following play: Ludovico il Moro, Girolamo Savonarola, and Pope Alexander VI?

How do the actions of Pope Julius II signify a new era in Italian politics?
Political Decline

Treaty of Lodi (1454-1455 AD)
- Alliance between Milan, Naples, and Florence against Venice and the Papal States.
- Maintain Internal balance of power
- All five unite against foreign powers.

End of the Treaty (1494 AD)
- Hostility resumes between Milan and Naples—Florence and the Papal states join Naples
- Ludovico il Moro, despot of Milan, calls upon the French for help.
Political Decline

Charles VIII of France (r. 1483-1498 AD)
- Marches his troops with speed into Florence, then the Papal States, and Naples
- Piero de' Medici exiled and Girolamo Savonarola (1452-1498) begins a theocratic rule in Florence
- Flattery and ransom save Florence from destruction
- Spain, Venice, and the Papal States start a counter-alliance to expel France in 1495
- 1498 – Savonarola loses favor, executed.
Political Decline

Pope Alexander VI (r. 1492-1503 AD)
- One of the most corrupt popes
- 1499 - Allies with France to gain greater control of Romagna; leaves alliance with Venice.
- 1499 – Louis XII of France invades Milan; captures Ludovico il Moro.
- 1500 – Spain and France divide Naples; Cesare Borgia (son of the Pope) conquers Romagne
Political Decline

**Pope Julius II** (r. 1503 - 1513 AD)
- The “Warrior Pope”
- Solidified control of Romagna
- Leaves partnership with France
- French invade a 3rd time under King Francois I in 1515
- France and the Pope reach a compromise in 1516
Describe the possible intentions of Machiavelli for writing *The Prince*.

In what ways does this work reflect values and practices typical of the Renaissance?

How might these principles described in Machiavelli’s *The Prince* be applied to twenty-first century politics?
Machiavelli Quotes...

- "Besides what has been said, people are fickle by nature; and it is a simple to convince them of something but difficult to hold them in that conviction; and, therefore, affairs should be managed in such a way that when they no longer believe, they can be made to believe by force."
  – Niccolo Machiavelli

Machiavelli interviewing Cesare Borgia (1475-1507), suspected model for The Prince.
• "One can make this generalization about men: they are ungrateful, fickle, liars, and deceivers, they shun danger and are greedy for profit; while you treat them well, they are yours. They would shed their blood for you, risk their property, their lives, their children, so long, as I said above, as danger is remote; but when you are in danger they turn against you." -- Niccolo Machiavelli
Machiavelli Quotes…

• "From this arises an argument: whether it is better to be loved than feared. I reply that one should like to be both one and the other; but since it is difficult to join them together, it is much safer to be feared than to be loved when one of the two must be lacking." -- Niccolo Machiavelli
Revival of the Monarchy in Northern Europe

How did monarchies expand their powers in the 15th and 16th centuries?

What is the significance or impact of this trend?
Rise of Northern Monarchies

Source of New Powers:
- Towns support the king = decline of power for nobility
- Ignored representative assemblies
- Staffed government with royal executives
- Centralize economic planning
- Standing armies formed
- Taxed the Peasant class

Spain’s Ferdinand & Isabella
The Northern Renaissance

How did Renaissance ideals spread from Italy to Northern Europe?

How did the Renaissance in the North differ from the Italian Renaissance?

Johann Gutenberg  (d 1468 AD)
The Northern Renaissance

Humanist thought spreads beyond Italy.

Trade and Travel

The Italian Wars

Innovation: **Johann Gutenberg** first to use moveable type to print books.
In what ways was Erasmus the embodiment of the Northern Renaissance?

“If you keep thinking about what you want to do or what you hope will happen, you don't do it, and it won't happen.” - Erasmus

Desiderius Erasmus
(1466?-1536 AD)
Desiderius Erasmus (1466 – 1536)

• “The Prince of Humanists”
• Study both ancient Christian and classical texts.
• Unite classical ideals of humanity and civic virtue with Christian ideals of love and piety
• Wrote *The Praise of Folly* to ridicule ignorance, superstition, and vice in the Church
• Go to the source and study ancient Christian texts
Northern Renaissance Artists
Jan Van Eyck

The Madonna of Chancellor Rolin
(c. 1435 AD)

Giovanni Arnolfini and His Bride
(c. 1434 AD)
Northern Renaissance Artists
Pieter Brueghel

*The Wedding Feast* (c. 1568 AD)

*Street of Carnivals* (c. 1559 AD)

*Peasants' Dance* (c. 1568 AD)
Northern Renaissance Artists
Albrecht Durer and Hans Holbein the Younger

Durer, Self Portrait

Durer, Woodcutting (c.1515)

Holbein, Henry VIII (c.1540)
Culture and Daily Life

What was life like during the Renaissance?
The Renaissance: Trends and Connections

Who were some trends that characterized the Renaissance? Which trends have impacted today's society? If so, how?

What connections are there between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance?