Exploring the Renaissance
1350-1650

Teacher's Guide
Exploring The Renaissance
1350-1650

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Exploring The Renaissance
1350-1650
Time: 20:17

Program Summary

This program uses live-action footage from Italy and England, photographs of museum materials, plus some dramatized segments to provide 7th through 10th grade students with information about the Renaissance.

Because the Renaissance was, in large part, inspired by the "rediscovery" of a long-lost way of life, a significant amount of this program is devoted to a historical review of the 1400 years that preceded the Renaissance. Life in ancient Rome is contrasted to life among the barbarians during the Dark Ages. Next, feudal and religious life during the last part of the Middle Ages is presented. The Renaissance is viewed as an emergence from a prolonged period of introspection that occurred during the Middle Ages as the glories of classical Roman and Greek culture are rediscovered.

Renaissance art and architecture are compared to medieval art, and perspective is discussed. Shakespeare's contributions to Renaissance theater and literature are presented. Different aspects of science and the effects of the invention of moveable type printing during the Renaissance are explained. Finally, Renaissance exploration and the Reformation are examined.
Student Objectives

After viewing the video and participating in the lesson activities, students should be able to...

• Briefly contrast life in ancient Roman times to life during the Dark Ages.
• Describe some of the most important aspects of the late medieval way of life.
• Summarize some of the changes that occurred in art, literature, science, architecture, communication and exploration as a result of the Renaissance.
• Discuss some of the reasons why the early humanists might have become interested in the lost cultures of ancient Rome and Greece.
• Explain some of the factors that led up to and resulted in the Reformation.

Teacher Preparation

Before presenting the video to your students, we suggest you preview the video and review this guide and the accompanying blackline masters in order to become knowledgeable about their content. You may decide to duplicate some of the blackline masters you intend to use. See pages 4-8 for a description of the blackline masters supplied with this program and the answer key.

As you review the instructional program outlined in this guide and the blackline masters that accompany it, you may find it necessary to make some changes, deletions, or additions to fit the specific needs of your class. We encourage you to do so, for only by tailoring this program to your students will they obtain the maximum instructional benefits afforded by the materials.

Introducing the Program

Introduce this program by describing the city states of the Italian peninsula and the economic climate of this area around the year 1350. Talk about the plague and problems being encountered by the papacy around this time. Talk briefly about the fall of Rome and the decline of learning, especially during the Dark Ages. Discuss the medieval world and contrast it to the new Renaissance ideals.

Distribute to the students the blackline masters you’ve chosen to use as reference (if any) and present the video. Viewing time is 20:15.

Follow-Up Activities

Discussion: A general discussion of the topics covered in the video would be appropriate. Discuss what it must have been like to live during a time of great cultural rebirth.

Topics covered: art, literature, architecture, science, religion, government, communication and land exploration.

• The fall of Rome was brought about, in part, by the attacks of the barbarians. The barbarians took pleasure in destroying artwork and buildings of great beauty. Today's vandals were named for an ancient German tribe that sacked Rome in 455 A.D. It appears that a new culture dedicated to vandalism is increasing...
in popularity today. Discuss the motivation of the modern vandals compared to those of the ancient barbarians.

• Discuss whether modern western culture is in decline. What are the signs of decline? Will there be a new Renaissance? If so, when will it occur and what form might it take?

Museum Visit: A very helpful follow-up activity would be to visit an art museum that houses collections of Roman, Greek, Medieval and Renaissance art or artifacts. In this way, students will be able to obtain direct experience of the culture of these historical eras.

Research Paper: Students could be assigned library research in order to write papers on some of the most famous artists, writers, scientists, and political figures of the Renaissance.

Blackline Masters/Answer Key

Blackline Master 1 is a Time Line showing important dates in European history, beginning with the Roman Peace and ending with the beginning of the 17th century. This blackline master can be used for reference and discussion.

Blackline Master 2, Vocabulary List, will help students become familiar with some of the terms referred to in the video.

Blackline Master 3, Centers of the Italian Renaissance, is a map of Italy in 1350 showing the cities where the Renaissance began.

Blackline Master 4, Perspective, shows the art of picturing objects on a flat surface so as to give the appearance of distance or depth. Explain and illustrate the concept of perspective, then have the students create their own scenes using perspective.

Blackline Master 5 is a Crossword Puzzle to be used as a class activity or a take-home assignment.

Blackline Master 6 is the Quiz for this video presentation. The questions and answers are given below.

1. The ______ is the name historians have given to the events that led to the formation of many types of Protestant churches during the 16th century.
Answer: Reformation

2. The Italian astronomer who proved the theories of Copernicus was named _______. Answer: Galileo

3. The entire historical period between the fall of the Western Roman Empire and the Renaissance is called the______. Answer: Middle Ages

4. The German tribes that settled in Britain after the Roman departure were called the ____ - ____. Answer: Anglo-Saxons

5. The plays of the Renaissance English writer __ __________ are still very popular today. Answer: William Shakespeare

6. In the beginning, the Renaissance movement was greatly inspired by scholars called ______, who were devoted to the study of the lost cultures of ancient Greece and Rome. Answer: humanists

7. The paintings of the Renaissance are more ______________ than those produced during the Middle Ages. Answer: realistic, three dimensional looking.

8. The Renaissance began in the country of ____ around 1350. Answer: Italy

9. In 1522, the Spanish explorer ________ sailed around the world for the very first time. Answer: Magellan

10. The invention of ______ _____ _____ allowed books to be mass produced, and this resulted in a more rapid flow of new ideas than was possible when books were copied by hand. Answer: moveable type printing

11. Both the microscope and the telescope were invented in the country of ____ between 1590 and 1608. Answer: Holland

12. Between 1347 and 1349, 25 to 30% of the population of Europe died as a result of _____. Answer: The bubonic plague

13. By using _____, Renaissance artists were able to create the illusion of depth in their drawings and paintings. Answer: perspective

14. The Renaissance interest in the human body revived the science of ______ that had not been studied seriously since ancient Roman times. Answer: anatomy

15. One of the greatest Renaissance artists and inventors was called Leonardo __ __________. Answer: da Vinci

Answers will vary, but should include: Perception, or depth of field dimensions, true-to-life art forms, stressing the beauty of the human body, bright and light colors; religious influence in architecture, use of color, symbolism and statues; the invention of the telescope and microscope; the study of anatomy; earth science and space; the Reformation, the growth of Protestant churches; the phasing out of feudalism, more power to the kings, less power of the papacy; the invention of moveable type printing and the spread of literature; world explorations by Columbus, Magellan and others.

**Exploring the Renaissance**

Script of Video Presentation

The historical period called the Renaissance began in Italy around the year 1350, and for the next three centuries Renaissance innovations in art, architecture, science, and religion spread slowly across the European continent.

The word Renaissance means "rebirth," for it was during the Renaissance that European civilization began to move away from the somber medieval ideals so well symbolized by that age's dark castles and brooding cathedrals, into the light of a new era.

The Renaissance was a unique historical period, for the leaders of the Renaissance found much of their inspiration in the great art and literature of the ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome, and here, among these ruins, the leaders of the Renaissance rediscovered some wonderful ideas that had been all but lost for nearly 1000 years.

**The Historical Background of the Renaissance**

Because the Renaissance was founded on the rediscovery of a long-lost way of life, it is important to spend some time comparing life in ancient Roman times to life during the nearly 1000 years of the Middle Ages that immediately preceded the Renaissance, for only in this way can this marvelous period of history be understood.

**Ancient Rome**

At its peak, around the year 120 A.D., Rome ruled a great empire that encompassed all of western Europe, and much of north Africa, and the near East. Every province of this vast empire was linked to Rome by over 50,000 miles of roads paved with stones, for wherever the Romans conquered, they brought civilization to a very primitive people.

Rome itself was a city of marble temples, triumphal arches and glorious palaces.

The Romans, just like the older Greek culture they so freely borrowed from, formed a highly civilized society bound together by a well developed system of government and law.

However, over the centuries, Rome's fantastic wealth led to corruption, complacency and decadence.
As the Roman empire weakened from within, it began to collapse under the continued attacks of barbaric tribes, such as the Ostrogoths, the Visigoths, and Vandals. And by the year 476 A.D., the Western Roman Empire finally disintegrated. Its army was shattered; the once beautiful city of Rome lay in ruin.

**Life After the Romans**

What happened in the former Roman province of Britain with the arrival of three Germanic tribes, the Angles, the Jutes, and the Saxons, was typical of what happened whenever the barbarians stepped in to take the place of the departing Romans—Roman towns were torn apart for their stones and bricks; the beautiful sculptures, masterfully carved from solid marble that once adorned their homes and temples, were smashed beyond recognition; and the engineering skills that had brought running water, paved roads, warm public baths, and excellent drainage systems to Roman towns, did not exist among the barbarians, and soon all these reminders of a more civilized way of life were forgotten.

The new Anglo-Saxon villages that began to appear across Britain were quite primitive compared to the Roman towns, and because many artistic skills were lost, the art that adorned their simple dwellings appears very crude by Roman standards.

**The Middle Ages**

The collapse of the highly Roman culture and its replacement by a barbarous, uncivilized society, marked Europe's entry into the "Middle Ages"—the name historians have given the middle period of European history between the Roman Empire and the Renaissance. Additionally, historians named the first 500 years of the Middle Ages "The Dark Ages" to reflect the rapid decline of a more civilized way of life during this era.

**Christianity During the Middle Ages**

As Europe entered the Dark Ages, the ancient religion of the Romans finally died out. The old gods and goddesses of Rome, and even the Norse gods of the barbarians, were soon forgotten as Europe embraced Christianity.

As Christianity took hold, the new Christians became increasingly concerned with the welfare of their souls and with the consequences of their deeds, both good and bad. And as their concern grew, their thoughts turned inward and it was not until the Renaissance that this inner exploration of the soul shifted into an outward exploration of the world.

During the Middle Ages, nearly everyone believed that life on earth was of little value in and of itself. Life was seen merely as a doorway leading either to the eternal pleasures of heaven or to the demons of hell.

Medieval artwork reinforced these beliefs, taught Bible stories, and acted to inspire a deep sense of religious devotion among the mostly illiterate population of Europe. During the last part of the Middle Ages, known as the High Middle Ages, this powerful devotion was expressed by an enormous upsurge of religious building as stone masons carved delicate ornaments for the huge new cathedrals and monasteries.
that sprouted up across the countryside.

And by the 1200s, more than ten percent of the population of Europe lived the religious life as monks, nuns, or priests.

**Castles and Feudalism**

Yet, strangely enough, this time of intense religious devotion was a period of almost continuous warfare and the many castles constructed during the last few centuries of the Middle Ages stand as lasting reminders of this fact.

Under Rome, most of Europe was united under a central government and its laws, and Rome's powerful military maintained peace in Europe for over two centuries. With the collapse of the Western Roman Empire, many small independent kingdoms emerged, and relentless warfare was the order of the day as rival kingdoms battled to increase their wealth by winning land from their foes. And because of this constant warfare, society in the Middle Ages organized itself according to the principles of feudalism.

Under the feudal system, the powerful noblemen who controlled the land exchanged protection for the labor or military service of their subjects; for example, the serfs who worked the noblemen's lands exchanged some of the crops they raised for the protection the lord provided from the hostile forces of other kingdoms.

But the feudal system began to collapse as the bubonic plague struck Europe in the mid 1300s, resulting in the death of nearly one quarter of the population of Europe.

At the same time, the Catholic Church had become very worldly and in need of reform. Bishops lived like princes, and the Church sold religious favors called indulgences for money. During the 1300s, two or, for awhile, even three men each claimed to be the "true" pope, and these disputes created much confusion among the Christians at that time.

**The Dawn of the Renaissance**

Amid this medieval background of religious confusion, plague, and warfare, a new direction for society was born in Italy around 1350, and this new direction has come to be known as the Renaissance.

Primarily here in Florence, and in Siena, Milan and Venice, small groups of artists, writers, and scholars came together. They sought to find a new course for the civilization of western Europe, the one that truly reflected mankind's enormous abilities—abilities they believed had been too long suppressed or just plain forgotten.

Because the leaders of the Renaissance had lost their respect, both for the hierarchy of the Church and for the feudal lords who ruled their lives, they turned elsewhere in their search for new ideas.

These leaders of the Renaissance were called humanists because their interest focused on the people whose works had brought greatness to the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome.
These humanists began to explore and study the mysterious ruins of ancient Rome and to retranslate the few ancient Greek and Roman books that had survived the barbarians.

**Renaissance Art**

From the earliest days of the Renaissance, artists began to be inspired by the realistic portrayals of the human body they saw in the Roman sculptures they unearthed, for the artists of the Middle Ages had viewed the human body mostly as an obstacle to a religious life and made no attempt to show its beauty. Partially for this reason, the figures in medieval art usually have a very flat "unlifelike" appearance.

But soon the great Renaissance artists, like Michaelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci and Raphael, were creating lifelike paintings of human beings by using rich colors and subtle shading that actually glorified the human body.

These artist's interests in accurately portraying the human body led to the first really scientific studies of human anatomy since the work of the Roman scientist Galen over 1300 years earlier. Again, bodies were being dissected in an attempt to understand how they functioned.

Renaissance artists also had discovered how to create the illusion of three dimensions on the flat surface of a painting by using perspective. Perspective is created when figures in the foreground are made taller than those in the background. The correct heights to paint the figures are determined simply by following sets of converging guidelines that can later be painted over. The illusion of depth created by using perspective in painting seemed almost magical to people who lived during the Renaissance, almost as magical as the first photographs were to people in the 19th century.

**Renaissance Architecture**

The magic and beauty found in Renaissance painting could also be found in the wonderful buildings constructed during that time. The great Renaissance cathedral of Florence, seen here, shows how ornate detail and delicately colored marble were combined to inspire a deep religious feeling. Much of this cathedral's ornamentation also shows the design influence of the Moslem culture that was gaining in strength around the Mediterranean during this era.

Changes were also occurring in the way that houses were being built during the Renaissance, and these changes reflected the decline of feudalism and the rise of trade with the stability this brought.

In England, as in much of the rest of Europe, the houses of the great feudal lords were being transformed from medieval fortresses into places of beauty, comfort, and elegance.

This Renaissance house, called Burton Agnes Hall, appears very civilized when compared to the rooms of this tower that housed the feudal lords who had first settled here in the 12th century. When construction began on Burton Agnes Hall at the end of the 16th century, it was considered to be a very modern building.
Unlike the original medieval house, the new hall had no fortifications at all; instead, its large windows let the comfortable rooms inside be flooded with light, and at the same time, allowed those inside to admire the lovely gardens and fountains outside. And like any Roman palace, this fine Renaissance house was adorned with marble statues of gods and goddesses.

**Renaissance Theater: William Shakespeare**

As the first bricks of Burton Agnes Hall were being cemented together in 1599, William Shakespeare watched the walls of his new theater go up 300 miles to the south, in London.

The plays of Shakespeare, considered to be the greatest writer in the English language, revitalized the art of theatrical performance, which had been a major source of entertainment in ancient Rome but had declined tremendously during the Middle Ages. To this day, Shakespearian plays are performed in many countries around the world and remain very popular because of the timeless themes that Shakespeare employed in his writing.

**Science During the Renaissance**

Besides improvements in the arts, great things were also happening in the world of science during the Renaissance.

In 1610, near the end of the Renaissance and six years before the death of Shakespeare, Galileo Galilei's use of the newly-invented telescope allowed him to prove the astronomical theories proposed by Nicolaus Copernicus in the preceding century—namely that the earth rotates on its axis once a day and rotates around the sun once a year.

Another marvelous late Renaissance scientific accomplishment was the invention of the microscope around 1590 in Holland. The microscope revealed a hidden world no one had even imagined to have existed before—where just a single drop of water was discovered to be filled with tiny living things one early microscopist called "cavorting beasties."

The invention of the microscope allowed an enormous increase of scientific understanding to occur in the studies of biology and medicine.

**The Moveable Type Printing Press**

The growth of scientific knowledge during the Renaissance had been fueled by the invention around 1450 of a printing press that used moveable type. Because this new invention resulted in the mass production of inexpensive books, scientists and other educated people of the Renaissance were able to share ideas in ways that had not been possible in the past.

Up until the mid 1400s, books were copied by hand instead of being printed on a printing press. Hand copying was a slow process, and as a result, books were very rare and expensive.

During the Medieval era, because of the scarcity of books, new ideas did not travel very fast from one location to another, but with the large scale adoption of inexpensive printing methods, after 1500, new
ideas began to move across Europe fairly rapidly.

**Exploration During the Renaissance**
The enthusiasm that led people of the Renaissance to publish new books, analyze the movement of the planets, develop exciting new techniques in art, and to study life under the microscope, also led them to undertake an unprecedented exploration of the earth itself.

Christopher Columbus sailed west in 1492 in a search for a direct shipping route from Europe to Asia and accidentally discovered North and South America, and by 1522 Ferdinand Magellan had sailed all the way around the world.

As a result of this burst of exploration, many of the native cultures of the Americas suffered near total destruction as they confronted, not just the superior weapons, but also the diseases brought by the Europeans.

But as Europeans began to settle in the Americas, they also brought with them European culture and the Christian religion.

**Christianity During the Renaissance: The Reformation**
Not only were Europeans in the Renaissance exploring the unmapped regions of the world, they were also exploring new ways of expressing their Christian faith. In 1517, in response to corruption within the Catholic Church, a German monk named Martin Luther called for its complete reform. Luther questioned the right of the Church to sell indulgences. He also questioned the authority of the pope, as well as the accuracy of many of the Catholic interpretations of the Bible, and this movement, now called "The Reformation," led to a breakup of the Catholic Church's total control of the Christian faith and led to the formation of many different Protestant churches.

One of the most significant results of the Reformation was that the power of kings increased as the power of the popes decreased. The clearest example of this increase of kingly power can be found in the English Reformation of 1534 that was led by King Henry the Eighth.

Henry had decided he needed a new wife since his first wife had failed to give him a son and heir. Because the Church forbid divorce, Henry needed to obtain an annulment from the pope in order to remarry. But when the pope denied his request, Henry stripped the pope of his authority and declared himself to be the head of the Church in England. Henry seized all the Church's property, dismantled every monastery in England, and went on to marry five more times.

And so it was, that during the Renaissance, sovereign nations all across Europe began to steer a new course that gradually freed them from domination by the papacy.
Conclusion
About three centuries after it had begun, the Renaissance, with its fantastic vision of cultural rebirth, had come to a successful conclusion, having produced a new sense of freedom in religion, in thought, and in government, as well as leaving behind a rich legacy of art, literature, science, and exploration.

European civilization had travelled far during the Renaissance. Feudalism had been exchanged for a new way of life that centered on trade that resulted in the growth of cities.

And when the Renaissance came to a close around 1650, much of Europe stood at the threshold of a new era; ready to meet the great challenges that were to lie ahead in what historians were to call "The Age of Reason."
EXPLORING THE RENAISSANCE

Timeline

27 B.C.- 180 A.D. Time of the Pax Romana (Roman Peace) and the peak of Roman power.

395 A.D. Division of the Roman Empire into eastern and western halves. The Eastern Empire was ruled by an emperor in Constantinople, and the Western Empire was ruled by another emperor in Rome.

410 A.D. Visigoths sack Rome. Romans leave Britain. After their departure, the Germanic Angles and Saxons invade Britain and establish settlements.

432 A.D. St. Patrick brings Christianity to Ireland.

447 A.D. Attila and the Huns invade the Eastern Roman Empire.

455 A.D. Vandals ravage Italy.

470 A.D. Huns driven out of Europe.

476 A.D. The collapse of the Western Roman Empire and the beginning of the Dark Ages; rapid decline in learning and art. Germanic Chief Odoacer becomes the king of Rome.

771-814 A.D. Empire of Charlemagne.

814-1025 A.D. Peak of the Byzantine (Eastern Roman) Empire.

1066 A.D. The conquest of Britain by the Norman French.

1100-1350 A.D. High Middle Ages and the peak of religious and castle building activity all across Europe.

1215 A.D. England's King John signs the Magna Carta that limited kingly power.

1294 A.D. Pope Boniface VIII is elected. His quarrels with the King of France lead to the beginning of a decline of papal power.

1347-49 A.D. First bubonic plague strikes Europe.

1338-1453 A.D. "The Hundred Years War" between France and England.

1350 A.D. The dawn of the Renaissance in Florence, Siena, Milan and Venice, Italy.

1439-1450 A.D. Johann Gutenberg invents moveable type printing in Germany.

1444 A.D. Birth of famous Italian Renaissance painter Sandro Botticelli.

1452 A.D. Birth of Italian artist and inventor Leonardo da Vinci.

1453 A.D. The Turks capture Constantinople. The Eastern Roman Empire collapses.
### EXPLORING THE RENAISSANCE

#### Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1473 A.D.</td>
<td>Birth in Poland of Nicolaus Copernicus who, in the 1500s, proposes that the sun is at the center of the solar system and the earth and other planets revolve around the sun.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1475 A.D.</td>
<td>Birth of Italian painter, architect, and sculptor Michaelangelo.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1483 A.D.</td>
<td>Birth of the great Italian painter Raphael.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1492 A.D.</td>
<td>First voyage of Christopher Columbus.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1509 A.D.</td>
<td>Henry VIII is crowned King of England.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1517 A.D.</td>
<td>The German, Martin Luther, publicly lists his disputes with the Catholic Church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1521 A.D.</td>
<td>Hernando Cortez enters Tenochtitlan (Mexico City) for the first time. Eventually he destroys most of the city.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1522 A.D.</td>
<td>Ferdinand Magellan sails around the world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1532 A.D.</td>
<td>Francisco Pizzaro conquers Peru.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1534 A.D.</td>
<td>Henry VIII is declared to be the head of the Church in England. Henry begins to close all monastaries in England.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1540-1543 A.D.</td>
<td>Francisco Vasquez de Coronado explores parts of modern day New Mexico, Texas, Kansas and Oklahoma.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1545-1563 A.D.</td>
<td>The Council of Trent works to firm up the power of the pope and works for reform within the Catholic Church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1590 A.D.</td>
<td>The microscope is invented in Holland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1599 A.D.</td>
<td>Construction begins on Shakespeare's Globe Theater.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1607 A.D.</td>
<td>The first English settlement is established in Jamestown, Virginia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1608 A.D.</td>
<td>The telescope is invented in Holland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1610 A.D.</td>
<td>The Italian scientist Galileo improves the telescope and proves the theories of Copernicus.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXPLORING THE RENAISSANCE

Vocabulary

Anglo-Saxon: Members of certain primitive Germanic tribes such as the Angles, Jutes, Saxons, and Frisians, that lived along the coast of the North Sea from Denmark to Holland. The Anglo-Saxons settled in England after the departure of the Romans in 410 A.D.

barbarians: A word the Romans used to refer to people from outside the boundaries of the Roman Empire. The word has come to mean primitive and violent people. The barbaric tribes of the Ostrogoths, Visigoths, and Vandals attacked the Roman Empire and brought about its collapse.

bishop: A high church official that oversees a diocese (a church district made up of several parishes.)

cathedral: A large Christian church that serves as the headquarters of a bishop.

conquistadors: Spanish gold seekers and ruthless conquerors throughout the Americas during the 16th century.

Copernicus System: An astronomical system developed by Nicolaus Copernicus in the 1540s which states that the earth and all the other planets of our solar system revolve around the sun. His system was proved by Galileo around 1610.

Dark Ages: The first part of the historical period called the Middle Ages that began with the collapse of Rome around 476 A.D. and ended around 800 to 1000 A.D. This was a period marked by a great decline in art and learning in western Europe.

feudalism: The economic, political, and social organization of medieval Europe in which land owned by wealthy noblemen was worked by serfs. The serfs exchanged part of the crops they raised for the use of the land and the military protection the noblemen provided.

humanism: The intellectual and cultural movement that stemmed from the study of ancient Greek and Roman literature and culture during the final period of the Middle Ages. Humanism was important in the early development of the Renaissance.

humanist: A Renaissance scholar who was a follower of humanism.

medieval: A word that refers to life during the Middle Ages.
EXPLORING THE RENAISSANCE

Vocabulary

Middle Ages: The "middle period" of history between the collapse of Rome and the birth of the Renaissance.

monastery: A center of religious practice where monks live.

monotheism: A religion, such as Christianity, that worships a single all-powerful God or Supreme Being.

moveable type printing: A printing method where individual raised letters could be temporarily arranged into words, sentences and paragraphs on a plate. Ink was rubbed over the letters on the plate which was then pressed on paper to make the page of the book. This technique was invented by Johann Gutenberg in the first half of the 15th century and resulted in the mass production of inexpensive books.

perspective: A technique used in painting and drawing that creates the illusion of three dimensions on a flat surface.

polytheism: A type of religion that worships many gods and goddesses such as was practiced in ancient Greece and Rome.

Pope: The head of the Roman Catholic Church.

Ptolemaic System: The astronomical system conceived of by the Greek astronomer Ptolemy (2nd century A.D.) that was considered to be true throughout the Middle Ages. Under the Ptolemaic System, the earth was believed to be the stationary center of the entire universe and the sun and planets were thought to revolve around the earth.

Reformation: A religious movement in the 16th century directed at reform of the Catholic Church that led to the creation of Protestant Christian churches.

Renaissance: A period of great cultural and scientific rebirth that began in Italy from the mid 14th to the mid 15th centuries and ended during the first half of the 17th century.
EXPLORING THE RENAISSANCE
Map of Italy

CENTERS OF THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE
1350 A.D.
EXPLORING THE RENAISSANCE

Using this illustration as an example, create your own picture using perspective. You may use the back of this sheet or a separate sheet of paper.

PERSPECTIVE

HORIZON

VANISHING POINT

GUIDELINES
EXPLORING THE RENAISSANCE
Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1. A religion that worships many gods and goddesses.
3. A very important scientific instrument invented in Holland around 1590.
4. A time of great cultural and scientific rebirth that began in Italy from the mid 14th to the mid 15th centuries.
5. A Greek astronomer who believed the sun revolved around the earth.
7. A Polish astronomer who theorized that the earth revolved around the sun.
10. The movement to reform the Catholic Church.
12. A Protestant leader in Germany during the 1530s.
13. The first part of the Middle Ages marked by a decline of art and learning.
14. A word that refers to life during the Middle Ages.
15. The Italian scientist who proved the theories of an important Polish astronomer.

DOWN
1. An artistic technique used to create the illusion of three dimensions on a drawing or painting.
2. The name of the king who led the Protestant movement in England.
6. Study of ancient Greek and Roman culture that was important in creating the Renaissance; study of the humanities.
8. Head of the Roman Catholic Church
9. An important Italian painter born in 1483.
11. A barbaric tribe that helped bring about the collapse of Rome.

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www.agcunitedlearning.com  e-mail: info@agcunited.com
EXPLORING THE RENAISSANCE

Quiz

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the correct word or words.

1. The __________________ is the name historians have given the events that led to the formation of many types of Protestant churches during the 16th century.

2. The Italian astronomer who proved the theories of Copernicus was named______________.

3. The entire historical period between the fall of the Western Roman Empire and the Renaissance is called the ________________.

4. The Germanic tribes that settled in Britain after the Romans departed were called the __________ - ___________.

5. The plays of the Renaissance English writer______________ __________________are still very popular today.

6. In the beginning, the Renaissance movement was greatly inspired by scholars called __________ who were devoted to the study of the lost cultures of ancient Greece and Rome.

7. The paintings of the Renaissance are more _______________ than those produced during the medieval period.

8. The Renaissance began in the country of __________ around 1350.

9. The Spanish explorer _________________sailed completely around the world in 1522 for the very first time.

10. The invention of __________ __________ __________ allowed books to be mass-produced and this resulted in a more rapid flow of new ideas than was possible when books were copied by hand.
EXPLORING THE RENAISSANCE
Quiz

11. Both the microscope and the telescope were invented in the country of _____________ between 1590 and 1608.

12. Between 1347 and 1349, 25 to 30% of the population of Europe died as a result of the _________________.

13. By using ________________, Renaissance artists were able to create illusion of depth in their drawings and paintings.

14. The Renaissance interest in the human body revived the science of _______________ that had not been studied seriously since ancient Roman times.

15. One of the greatest Renaissance artists and inventors was called Leonardo _________________.