The Renaissance "Perspective"
Spirit of the Renaissance: Optimism, Confidence, and Creativity

What: Renaissance is a French word meaning Rebirth. The Renaissance was a time of creativity and great change in many areas—political, social, economic, and cultural. It marked a slow shift from an agricultural to an urban society, in which trade (cities) assumed greater importance than in the past. It was also a time when creative thinking and new technology let people comprehend and describe the world more accurately. Science, philosophy, religion, art, and history combined to create a humanist approach to understanding the world.
A New World View

- During the Renaissance, creative minds set out to transform what they saw as the disorder and disunity of the medieval world.
- Renaissance thinkers had a reawakened interest in the classical learning of Greece and Rome. (Greco-Roman traditions)
- At the same time, society placed a new emphasis on individual achievement.

Live life to the fullest
Individualism
Well rounded person
Public Service
Life on earth important
Human accomplishments limitless
A Spirit of Adventure

- The Renaissance supported a spirit of **adventure** and a wide-ranging **curiosity** that led people to **explore new worlds** or to **reexamine old ones**.
- **Navigators** who sailed across the ocean, **scientists** who looked at the universe in new ways, and **writers and artists** who experimented with new forms and techniques all shared that spirit.
- In part, that spirit of adventure came from a **new view of man himself**.
Humanism

Interest in the welfare of people.
Emphasizes reason, scientific inquiry, and human fulfillment in the natural world,
Any system, thought or action in which human interests, values, and dignity predominate.

Expressing Humanism

- At the heart of the Renaissance was an intellectual movement known as humanism. Humanists studied the classical culture of Greece and Rome (Greco-Roman).
- Though most humanists were pious Christians, they focused on worldly subjects rather than on the religious issues that had occupied medieval thinkers.
- Humanists believed that education should stimulate the individual’s creative powers. They emphasized the humanities—subjects such as grammar, rhetoric (the study of using language effectively), poetry, and history—that had been taught in ancient Greek and Roman schools.
Who

The Medici (med uh chee) family of Florence ranked among the richest merchants and bankers in Europe. Lorenzo, known as “the Magnificent,” represented the Renaissance ideal. At Lorenzos invitation, poets and philosophers frequently visited the Medici palace. Artists learned their craft by sketching ancient Roman statues displayed in the Medici gardens.

The Medicis’ great wealth and influence transformed Florence. It came to symbolize the energy and brilliance of the Italian Renaissance. Like the ancient city of Athens, it produced a dazzling number of gifted poets, artists, architects, scholars, and scientist.
Who

Francesco Petrarch (pee trahrk), a Florentine who lived in the 1300s, was an early Renaissance humanist, poet, and scholar. He assembled a library of Greek and Roman manuscripts in monasteries and churches.
WHO

Leonardo da Vinci

Artist Leonardo da Vinci (duh vin chee) (1452–1519) had an endless curiosity...dissected corpses to learn how bones and muscles work. As a result, Leonardo’s paintings grip people with their realism. Leonardo thought of himself as an artist. Yet his talents and accomplishments ranged over many areas, including botany, anatomy, optics, music, architecture, and engineering. He made sketches for flying machines and undersea boats centuries before the first airplane or submarine was actually built... his many notebooks survive as a testament to his genius and creativity.

Michelangelo

Artist Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475–1564), like Leonardo, had many talents—he was a sculptor, engineer, painter, architect, and poet.
Who

**Raphael**


**Machiavelli**

Niccolò Machiavelli (mahk ee uh vel ee) wrote a guide for rulers on how to gain and maintain power. **Machiavelli stressed that the end justifies the means.** He urged rulers to use whatever methods were necessary to achieve their goals.

Machiavelli saw himself as an enemy of oppression and corruption, but critics attacked his cynical advice. (In fact, the term “Machiavellian” came to refer to the use of deceit in politics.)
In about 1455, **Johann Gutenberg** (goot un burg) of Mainz, Germany, printed the first complete edition of the Bible using a printing press with movable type. Before the printing press, there were only a few thousand books in all of Europe. By 1500, according to some estimates, **15 to 20 million volumes** had been produced on printing presses.
Who

Shakespeare

● The towering figure of Renaissance literature was the English poet and playwright William Shakespeare.

● Between 1590 and 1613, he wrote 37 plays that are still performed around the world.

● “... was not of an age, but for all time.”

● Shakespeare’s genius was in expressing universal themes in everyday, realistic settings. His work explores Renaissance ideals such as the complexity of the individual and the importance of the classics. At the same time, his characters speak in language that common people can understand and appreciate. Shakespeare’s love of words also vastly enriched the English language. More than 1,700 words appeared for the first time in his works.
Where
The Renaissance began in Italy.

- Over the next hundred years it spread to the rest of Europe, eventually transforming the entire Western world.
- Renaissance thinkers had a new interest in ancient Rome. Since Italy had been the center of the Roman empire, it was a logical place for this reawakening to emerge.
The northern Renaissance began in the prosperous cities of Flanders, a region that included parts of present-day northern France, Belgium, and the Netherlands. Flanders was a thriving center of trade for northern Europe. From Flanders, the Renaissance spread to Spain, France, Germany, and England.
When Europeans called this age the Renaissance, meaning “rebirth.” It began in the 1300s and reached its peak around 1500. The Renaissance marked the transition from medieval times to the early modern world.
How did Renaissance ideals spread so rapidly throughout Europe?

- An astounding invention, a **printing press with movable type**, aided the spread of the Renaissance.
- Printed books were cheaper and easier to produce than hand-copied works. With books more readily available, **more people learned to read**.
- Readers **gained access to a broad range of knowledge**, from medicine and law to mining.
- As printing presses were established in Italy and other parts of Europe, **printed books exposed educated Europeans to new ideas and new places**.
How did the Renaissance affect music?

The Baroque is a period of artistic style that used exaggerated motion and clear, easily interpreted detail to produce drama, tension, exuberance, and grandeur in sculpture, painting, architecture, literature, dance, and music. The style started around 1600 in Rome, Italy and spread to most of Europe.

Baroque music is the style of Western music extending approximately from 1600 to 1750. The word "baroque" comes from the Portuguese word barroco, meaning "misshapen pearl", the name came to be applied also to its architecture.

The baroque period saw the creation of functional tonality. During the period, composers and performers used more elaborate musical ornamentation, made changes in musical notation, and developed new instrumental playing techniques. Baroque music expanded the size, range, and complexity of instrumental performance, and also established opera as a musical genre. Many musical terms and concepts from this era are still in use today.
WHY was Italy the birthplace of the Renaissance?

Trade
Italy’s location encouraged trade with well-developed markets on the eastern Mediterranean and in northern Africa, as well as in northern Europe. Trade provided the wealth that fueled Italy’s Renaissance. Trade routes also carried new ideas, important in shaping the Renaissance.

Italy’s Vibrant City-States
Italy was divided into many small city-states. Each Italian city-state was controlled by a powerful family and dominated by a wealthy and powerful merchant class. These merchant families interest in art and emphasis on personal achievement helped to shape the Italian Renaissance.
Wisdom
Outcome/Results

- In the 1500s, the Renaissance in northern Europe sparked a religious upheaval that affected Christians at all levels of society. Northern European calls for church reform eventually unleashed forces that would shatter Christian unity. This movement is known as the Protestant Reformation.

- The Renaissance saw the rise of strong central governments and an increasingly urban economy, based on commerce rather than agriculture.

- Led to advancements in Science (Copernicus, Galileo)

- Led to world exploration (1492—Columbus sailed to the "new world"

- Art and literature is forever changed

- Printing press led to spread of literacy and education

- Lays the foundation for "Modern" History

- A major increase on the growth and influence of the Middle Class
Wisdom

The Renaissance ushered in a New World view. The Scientific Revolution, Enlightenment/Age of Reason, Free Market Capitalism and Age of Exploration and Discovery followed creating a new world consciousness.
Series of Historical events that are directly related:

**Renaissance**- French- Rebirth - Renaissance- spirit of optimism, confidence, and creativity- cultural achievements in Europe – Rise of secularism and humanism- Commercial Revolution (Capitalism and the Middle Class)- Opens the door to Reformation, Scientific Revolution, Age of Exploration, and Enlightenment

**Reformation**- Movement that divided Western Christianity into Protestant and Catholics- Changed political, social and cultural conditions in Europe- Encouraged the concepts of freedom and individualism- Keeps the door open to Scientific Revolution, Age of Exploration, and Enlightenment

**Scientific Revolution**- Scientific thought and methods replace traditional forms of knowledge and information gathering- logic and reason (inductive and deductive) replace dogma and religious interpretation in consciousness- Math becomes language of Science- Keeps the door open to Age of Exploration and Enlightenment

**Enlightenment**- change of ideas and attitudes challenged traditional views on politics and society- secularism and humanism- freedom of speech, individual rights, and equality common enlightenment ideals

**Rationalism**- Belief that the truth could only be arrived at by the application of logic and reason through observation and experimentation

**Commercial Revolution**: Economic developments led to changing business methods and practices- resulting in rising standard of living, economic specialization, new attitudes about land ownership, and a growth in the use of money- capitalism and the emergence of the middle class

**Age of Exploration**- European application of new knowledge/technology to discover better trade routes and spread religious beliefs…leads to new discoveries, further explorations and colonization

**Colonization**- the spread of European culture throughout the “New World” by the acquisition and settlement of newly discovered lands- brings tremendous change to the “New World” and the “Old World”- destroys the native peoples of the western hemisphere- creates new ethnic groups

**Industrial Revolution**: The mechanization of work- Intense technological development for the purpose of the production of goods on a mass scale- Most significant development affecting societies and cultures in the modern era.

**Imperialism**: The domination of others using Nationalism and Industrialization. Industrialized nations colonize Asia and Africa Culminates in the first modern war.

World War I...World War II...Cold War