THE RENAISSANCE

The Renaissance was a period of time between 1300 and 1600 when the Middle Ages ended and modern times began. Whereas little progress had been made by man during the thousand years of the Middle Ages, the Renaissance brought great changes to Europe. It was an age of curiosity and learning, science and invention, art and literature, and adventure and exploration. To some extent, it was a continuation of the accomplishments and cultural achievements of ancient Greek and Roman civilizations. Many ideas and attitudes of the Renaissance period still influence mankind today.

Directions Decide whether the following events took place during the Middle Ages or the Renaissance. Fill in the space with MA for Middle Ages or R for Renaissance.

(1) ____ Europe remained basically unchanged for nearly a thousand years.

(2) ____ The wealthy Medici family ruled the Italian city-state of Florence. It hired painters, architects, sculptors, and other craftsmen to produce beautiful works of art to decorate the city.

(3) ____ The small number of universities limited their courses of study to law, medicine, and theology.

(4) ____ Niccolo Machiavelli wrote a handbook called "The Prince." He advised the rulers of the Italian city-states to use whatever means were necessary, no matter how ruthless, to stay in power and achieve their goals.

(5) ____ People thought of themselves as belonging to a particular social class, such as nobles or peasants. There was no chance to advance to a higher class. A person's class determined the type of work they would do and the kind of life they would live.

(6) ____ Painters and sculptors devoted their talents almost exclusively to decorating churches and cathedrals. They received almost no individual recognition for their efforts.

(7) ____ Writers produced comedies and dramatic tales for a growing audience of readers.

(8) ____ Polish astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus constructed a model of the solar system with the sun at the center. His model contradicted the earth-centered theory proposed 1500 years earlier by the Greek astronomer Ptolomy.

(9) ____ "Extended families," which included grandparents, parents, children, and other relatives, lived together on manors. The labor of many people was needed to work the land.

(10) ____ Popes, kings, princes, merchants, and bankers sought out the creative services of painters, sculptors, and writers.

(11) ____ Artists developed oil base paints which could easily be mixed together to produce new shades of color.

(12) ____ Books were copied by hand at the rate of about two per year per person.

(13) ____ William Shakespeare, an English playwright, wrote such dramas as "Antony and Cleopatra," "Hamlet," "King Lear," "Julius Caesar," "The Merchant of Venice," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," and "Romeo and Juliet."

(14) ____ Women worked at home caring for the children and doing household chores. They also helped the men plant and harvest crops.

(15) ____ A person's social class became less important. People began to judge others according to their accomplishments, not by their class at birth. An individual with knowledge and talent in many fields was called a "universal man."

(16) ____ Spanish author Miguel de Cervantes wrote "Don Quixote." The hero of the story, Don Quixote, loses his sense of reality after reading too many romantic tales. Imagining that he is a knight, he has many comical adventures with his fat squire Sancho Panza. At one point, Don Quixote's mind becomes so twisted that he attacks a windmill, thinking it is a giant.

(17) ____ Church schools were the most common schools during this period. Priests in the parish churches and monks in the monasteries were the teachers. The main subjects were church music and reading and writing Latin.

(18) ____ Johannes Gutenberg of Germany used "movable type" to print copies of the Bible and other books. Movable type consisted of individual metal letters that could be arranged to form words and sentences. Books were made available to people who had never before been able to afford them. Ideas and information spread quickly over a wide area.

(19) ____ Scholars were more interested in theology -- the study of religion -- than they were in science and nature.

(20) ____ As trade declined, industry shut down and workers lost their jobs. Cities became smaller in size as unemployed workers moved to rural areas.

(21) ____ Desiderius Erasmus urged reform of the Roman Catholic Church through his writings, including "Praise of Folly." In a humorous way, he criticized the ignorance of many of the clergy, their failure to educate the people, and their tendency to give more time to ceremony than to charity and the study of the Bible.

(22) ____ Great Britain, Spain, France, and other nation-states developed under the leadership of powerful kings.

(23) ____ The Catholic Church was the dominant institution of the period, influencing almost every aspect of daily life.

(24) ____ Although most women continued to work at home, some took jobs as household servants and spinners and weavers, or operated their own small shops.

(25) ____ Besides churches, architects designed houses, palaces, and public buildings.

(26) ____ This period began in Italy and spread to France, Germany, The Netherlands, England, and Spain.

(27) ____ Christopher Columbus, Vasco da Gama, John Cabot, Ferdinand Magellan, Jacques Cartier, and other navigators explored new and distant lands. Profitable trade routes were established.

(28) ____ Schools and universities expanded their curriculums to include such subjects as history, grammar, poetry, and rhetoric. These subjects had been taught during ancient Greek and Roman times. The scholars who urged people to obtain a well-rounded education were known as "humanists." The humanists, especially those in Italy, looked to the human experience of classical Greece and Rome, rather than to the religious experience in the Middle Ages. They wrote about man's behavior -- his thoughts, actions, and feelings.

(29) ____ Leonardo da Vinci painted the "Last Supper" and the "Mona Lisa." Michelangelo, at the request of the pope, painted scenes from the Bible on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican. Raphael painted the Madonna, or mother of Jesus, and the infant Jesus. All three of these Italian artists won lasting fame for their masterpieces.

(30) ____ Western Europe was divided into feudal estates owned by wealthy nobles.
(31) ____ Painters limited themselves to religious subjects.
(32) ____ People's diets improved as farmers began to produce such new foods as meat, fruit, and dairy products.
(33) ____ Many Christians began to lose confidence in the leadership of the Catholic Church and called for reform. The resulting Protestant Reformation weakened the power of the Church and split Christianity into many faiths.
(34) ____ Writers emphasized individual personalities. New forms of literature included the essay and biography.
(35) ____ Merchants and bankers, who belonged to a new middle class, supported art, culture, and learning.
(36) ____ Young men from the upper class learned the manners of chivalry and how to ride and fight on horseback. They became knights. Some lower class youths became apprentices and worked with a master craftsman to learn a trade. Other boys learned the skills of farming from their parents.
(37) ____ Artists, writers, and scholars stressed individual achievement and classical learning.
(38) ____ "Nuclear families," consisting of parents and children only, became the typical family unit in the growing cities and towns of Western Europe.
(39) ____ The libraries of some popes and rulers numbered several thousand books.
(40) ____ After the fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476, very little international trade took place over the next 500 years. Most people stayed within a few miles of home throughout their lifetimes.
(41) ____ The Northmen, Magyars, and other barbarian tribes swept into Western Europe. People looked to rich and powerful nobles, called lords, for protection.
(42) ____ Architects concentrated their talents on designing churches.
(43) ____ Painters turned away from religious themes and concentrated on portraits, landscapes, and scenes from everday life.
(44) ____ Francesco Petrarch and other scholars visited abandoned monasteries and other places in search of manuscripts and texts from ancient Greece and Rome.
(45) ____ Leonardo da Vinci made many new discoveries through observation and experimentation.