

## What is the Renaissance?

### Renaissance - The Rebirth .... The rebirth of what?

1. Education
2. Trade
3. Art and Music
4. Science and Technology
5. Cities and Towns

... as a main part of life in society.

### If it was reborn, when did it die?

After the fall of the Roman Empire. Europe enters a period known Middle Ages (lasts from the 5th century to about the 15th century depending on where you lived.). This period is also known as the Dark Ages or Medieval period.

### How does Europe die?

After the fall there was weak or no central government. (**ANARCHY**) People were looting and stealing, raping and pillaging, killing and maiming. Life was a mess and there was nobody to protect the people (no police, army or law to help) The result was that people's chief concern was not education, the arts or developing new technology. Their main concern was survival. So, all these nice things in life took a back seat for 1000 years and making it to the next day became "the thing"!

### What resurrects Europe?

1. The Crusades
2. The rise of Trade
3. The rise of the Middle Class

There were many things that were involved in the rebirth, one of the first things were the **Crusades**(Holy Wars). The Christians of Europe got wind that "Little Baby Jesus" hometown as well as other holy places had been taken over by infidels(non-believers). It was every good Christians responsibility to go down to the Middle East and take it back! Yeah, Right! The Crusades were basically a flop. However, the Crusaders brought back with them many things that triggered interests that became the spark in the revitalizing of Europe. After the Crusades the process is put in motion for the Renaissance, and it goes something like this ... The Crusaders come back with good stuff(some of it goods, some ideas) - The people of Europe really like "the Stuff" and want more of it. - **The Rise of Trade**, there is money to be made and people are willing to go back to the Middle East to get it. - The money is great which leads to the **Rise of the Middle Class** - This new middle class with money are not going back to a low life manor so the **Rise of Towns and Urban Areas**. The new urban areas become centers of trade. Life becomes easier and some find themselves with a little time on there hands. During the Crusades, the works of the ancient Greeks and Romans were rediscovered. This became hot reading for those who were "in". Those who studied the Ancient Classics were known as **Humanists**. The people loved these works because it stressed the importance and uniqueness of the individual.(maybe this was the rise of being stuck-up, self-centered, or full of one's self). It was also helpful that the writing was in the **Vernacular** (the language of the people). Now that the people of Europe were feeling good about themselves the next change would deal with the Sacred Church. The view of life became more **Secular**(non-religious). The concern switched for the heavens to life now on earth. Thinkers of the time turned to observation and experience rather than to the authority of the Church. The seeds of the **Scientific Revolution** had been planted. Do not be mistaken however, the Church was still mighty and people knew not to mess. Back to the Merchants with all the money. If you got it, you got to show it!!! Individuals became the "**Patron of the Arts**" (Those who support and most important pay for it). This was a switch because it use to be the Church. Since it was not the Church calling the shots Artists were able to develop new styles and techniques. With the new wealth and ideas what obviously comes next? The thirst for power! They even had a handbook when **Niccolo Machiavelli** wrote *The Prince*, this work advised the Renaissance Ruler how to get power and hold on to it. Machiavelli believed "the end justifies the means" which in simpler terms means cheat, steal, kill, do what you got to, to get what you want. With all this going on the Feudal lords were out and the new political system was the **Rise of the Nation -State**. This lead to the modern nations that exist today. The next step was " if we can do here we can do it any where" but first they had to find those places. **The Age of Exploration** is the next "Biggie" that starts a whole other chain of events that we won't get into right now.

### Where does this Rebirth happen?

Northern Italy (Florence, Venice, Milan and Genoa). Why? Check out the geography! Its perfect, located in the middle of the Mediterranean sea, surrounded by water (ship in the goods), at the base of Europe, ready to carry "the stuff" north. What else do you need?

# Renaissance Test

1. The term Renaissance means \_\_\_\_\_.
2. List two aspects of life in society that had a renewed importance during the Renaissance.
3. What event caused the progression of culture to stall for 1000 years, before the Renaissance revitalized it again?
4. During those 1000 years Europe entered a period known as the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Also, during this period there was a weak or no central government. A time when there is no authority to maintain order is called \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The event that helped Europe get out of this period was when Europeans went to the Middle East to win back the holy lands for the Church. It was called the \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The holy lands were taken over by infidels, which are \_\_\_\_\_.
8. When the people returned from the Middle East, why was there so much excitement to have started Europe into the period of the Renaissance?
9. During the Renaissance people started to make money. This led to the rise of what new class?
10. What was the major occupation of this new class?
11. The new class of wealthy people were not going to live on a manor, they settled in trading centers which led to the rise of \_\_\_\_\_.
12. During this period there was a renewed interest in the ancient works of the Greeks and Romans. People who studied these works were known as \_\_\_\_\_.
13. It was helpful that much of the material was translated in to the language of the people. The term to describe this is \_\_\_\_\_.
14. People's views on life started to change from that of the Churches to a non-religious or \_\_\_\_\_ view.
15. The new wealthy class became interested in the arts. Those who support the arts are called \_\_\_\_\_.
16. With wealth comes the desire for power. What book did Machiavelli write outlining how someone could rise to power and stay there?
17. Machiavelli believed that " \_\_\_\_\_ ", which is not based on morality, but on results.
18. With feudalism becoming obsolete, the rise of \_\_\_\_\_ became the new structure for governments in Europe.
19. What nation does the Renaissance start in?
20. What cities were leaders in the Renaissance movement?
21. What family is considered the "first family of the Renaissance" because of their leadership in finance, government and the development of the Arts?
22. \_\_\_\_\_, was the term given to those who best symbolized the values of the time. They would not only be an expert in one field but many fields.
23. The best example of this type of person is \_\_\_\_\_. He was a painter, sculptor, designer and inventor. His most famous painting is the "Mona Lisa".
24. Who was the leading painter and sculptor during the Renaissance, whose works include the Sistine Chapel and the statue of "David"?
25. Who was the author who wrote such classics as *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet* and *Macbeth*?
26. Who was the first to claim that the earth and other planets revolved around the sun?
27. Galileo and Francis Bacon developed the \_\_\_\_\_ which emphasized careful observation and measurement, experimentation and rejecting strict reliance on authorities like the Church.
28. Who invented the printing press?
29. What book was the first to be mass produced by the printing press?
30. What European explorer traveled to China and other parts of the Far East? He publicized his travels in China, popularizing the adventure and wealth awaiting Europeans in the Far East.
31. Who accidentally arrived in the Americas in an attempt to find a westward route from Europe to the Orient?
32. Who discovered an all water route from Europe to India by sailing around the southern tip of Africa?
33. Who led the first expedition of ships to circumnavigate the world?