

DIRECTIONS: 1) Read the questions below. 2) Read and annotate the article. 3) Answer the questions below by using the article. Put the question number next to the text that correctly answers the question. 4) Complete the prediction section.

1. When did the Renaissance take place? Was this before or after the Middle Ages?
2. What does the word renaissance mean? Why do you think this time period was called the Renaissance?
3. In what city, country, and continent did the Renaissance begin?
4. Who were two famous Renaissance Men? What are they remembered for?
5. Why did the Renaissance begin in Italy? Give the reason that you believe is most important. Give a quote to support your reason.
6. What did humanists believe? Explain. Give evidence from the text to support your answer.
7. How did events following the Renaissance lead to the Age of Exploration?

The Renaissance was a period of time from the 14th to the 17th century in Europe. This era bridged the time between the Middle Ages and modern times. The word "Renaissance" means "rebirth".

Coming out of the Dark

The Middle Ages began with the fall of the Roman Empire. Much of the advances in science, art, and government that had been made by the Greeks and Romans were lost during this time. Part of the Middle Ages is actually called the Dark Ages because so much of what was learned earlier was lost.

The Renaissance was a time of "coming out of the dark". It was a rebirth of education, science, art, literature, music, and a better life for people in general.

A Cultural Movement

A big part of the Renaissance was a cultural movement called humanism. Humanism was a philosophy that all people should strive to be educated and learned in the classical arts, literature, and science. It looked for realism and human emotion in art. It also said that it was okay for people to pursue comfort, riches, and beauty. For the first time, many people focused more on learning and achieving knowledge on Earth, rather than devoting their life only to God.

It began in Italy

The Renaissance started in Florence, [Italy](#) and spread to other city-states in Italy. Part of the reason it began in Italy was because of the history of Rome and the Roman Empire. Another reason it began in Italy was because Italy had become very wealthy and the wealthy patrons were willing to spend their money supporting artists and geniuses. City-states played a big role in the rule of Italy at the time. They were often ruled by a powerful family. Some important city-states in Italy included Florence, Milan, Venice, and Ferrara.

The Renaissance Man

The term Renaissance Man refers to a person that is an expert and talented in many areas. The true geniuses of the Renaissance were great examples of this. [Leonardo da Vinci](#) was a master painter, sculptor, scientist, inventor, architect, engineer, and writer. Michelangelo was also a superb painter, sculptor, and architect.

The Black Death

The **Black Death** was a disease that swept through Europe in 1347. Ships carried the plague from the Middle East to Italy in 1347, and it quickly spread across Europe. It did not discriminate – it killed saint and sinner, poor and rich, male and female. Because cities were so overcrowded, contact with plague carriers was more common there than in rural areas, but no one was safe. Houses of those infected were quarantined, and no one was allowed to leave. By 1350, the worst of the crisis was over; by then, between 25 and 33 percent of Europe’s population had died in the plague.

The Scientific Revolution

Before the 1500s, most educated people depended on authorities such as ancient Greek writers and church officials for information. During the **Scientific Revolution**, people began to believe that what they observed was more important than what they were told. They developed logical explanations for how the world worked, based on what they observed. This focus on observation marked the start of modern science. New discoveries occurred in astronomy, biology, physics, and other fields. New inventions included the telescope, microscope, and thermometer.

The Voyages of Discovery

With improved devices such as the compass and astrolabe, and better ships, Europeans made longer, safer sea voyages. They found new routes to distant places. Europeans had many reasons for exploring.

My Predictions for the Age of Exploration...

Explorers will be able to have their monarchs	3 Struggles Explorers will have on their <u>Journey</u>	3 Struggles Explorers will have in their “new” land
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Renaissance Review from Last Year...

support by agreeing to...		