

# The Renaissance

1350-1600 C.E.



**Essential Questions:**

- Why did the Renaissance begin in Italy?
- What were the defining characteristics of the Renaissance?
- What were some of the common characteristics of Renaissance art and how did it differ from medieval art?
- What was the cultural impact of the Renaissance on Europe and the rest of the world?

## Warm up: Get Inside the Head of a Renaissance Man!

[www.renaissanceconnection.org](http://www.renaissanceconnection.org)


- During the Renaissance, artists, writers and scholars began to think in new ways.
- Imagine that you could open this man's head and examine the contents of his mind!
- Create a list of concepts and ideas from the period (including definitions) which must have shaped this Italian man's thinking.






## The Beginning

- The term Renaissance means “rebirth” in Latin.
- It was a period from about 1300 to 1650 C.E. in which Europe experienced a rebirth of art and learning.
- The Renaissance started in Italy where wealth from trade supported art learning.
- It was influenced by very powerful Italian families such as the Medici's. The Medici's were bankers out of Florence.
- The families gave financial support, or **patronage**, to various artists.
- Here also modern **capitalism** was born. Private individuals or companies, not the government, owned businesses. The main goal is profit.
- Venice experienced great prosperity. Allowed the development of republican governments, headed by an elected **doge**, or leader. Like Florence, Venice supported artistic achievement.


## Characteristics of the Renaissance

- Humanism
- Individualism
- Questioning attitude
- Interest in secular, or non-religious worldly matters.
- Rise of the middle class (Disposable income)
- Great achievements in the arts.



## Humanism

- **Humanism** is the idea that is focused on human achievements and potential rather than religious themes. Became a movement.
- Focused on the man and his world.
- Concentrated on everyday human problems and relationships.
- Humanists focused on pleasure rather than morality.
- The secular nature of humanism, as well as it's questioning attitude, often brought it into conflict with the traditional teachings of the Catholic Church and Medieval thinking.



## The Italian Renaissance

By Mr. Tokard  
www.SchoolHistory.co.uk

The dawn of the Italian Renaissance marked the end of the Middle Ages in Europe. The word '**renaissance**' means re-birth. It was a period when people re-discovered learning and looked back to the classical civilizations of Rome and Greece for their inspiration. It was an exciting time of new inventions and amazing discoveries, magnificent buildings and beautiful art. People were changing their attitudes towards themselves and the world around them. The development of printing in Germany meant that this new Renaissance culture spread quickly throughout Europe.

The Renaissance in Italy was made possible by the country's wealth. Whereas most people in Europe still worked on the land, Italy was a prosperous, international trading centre, employing bankers, merchants and lawyers. These people could afford to build fine houses, buy books and employ artists and musicians.



Renaissance men and women believed that human life was both interesting and extremely valuable, and tried to develop all their talents. They were full of admiration for the wide-ranging talents of '**universal men**' such as Leonardo da Vinci, who is perhaps most famous as the painter of masterpieces like the Mona Lisa and The Last Supper. However, Leonardo's skills and interests stretched far beyond painting. He was fascinated by how and why things worked, and studied engineering, anatomy and botany as well as architecture, physics and meteorology. He made great advances in science and learning, many of which were years ahead of his time. From his detailed notebooks came designs for helicopters, tanks and submarines. Leonardo da Vinci's curiosity and fascination for the world around him, as well as his personal achievements made him a fine example of the Renaissance spirit and culture.

**The city of Florence was the major cultural and artistic centre of the Italian Renaissance.**



**Questions** Use the information above to help you answer the following questions:

1. What does the word "renaissance" mean?
2. During the Renaissance, which two classical civilizations did the Italians look to for their inspiration?
3. What development made it possible for the new culture to spread quickly throughout Europe?
4. Why was it possible for the Renaissance to take place in Italy at that time?
5. Why did Italian people admire "universal men" such as Leonardo da Vinci?
6. Leonardo da Vinci was fascinated by the world around him. What would he have been studying in each of these subjects?

**BOTANY**  
**ANATOMY**

**ARCHITECTURE**  
**METEOROLOGY**

"Mona Lisa," oil painting by Leonardo da Vinci, 1503-06; in the Louvre, Paris.



Leonardo, self-portrait, chalk drawing. In the Palazzo Reale, Turin, Italy.








## Video II: "Engineering an Empire—Da Vinci's World" (45m)

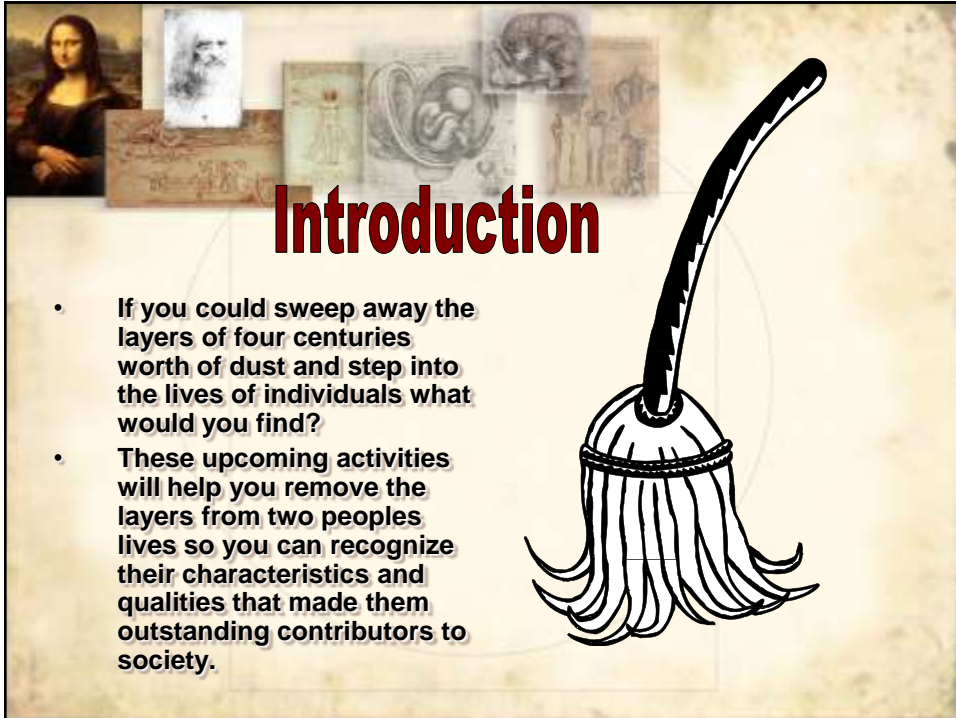


- Qs: As you watch the video, think about the major themes and characteristics of Renaissance art, engineering and architecture. Who were the major players and what influenced their thinking? How did Renaissance art, engineering and architecture change the cultural, religious and political life of Europe? What major themes can you emphasize in your PowerPoint project?



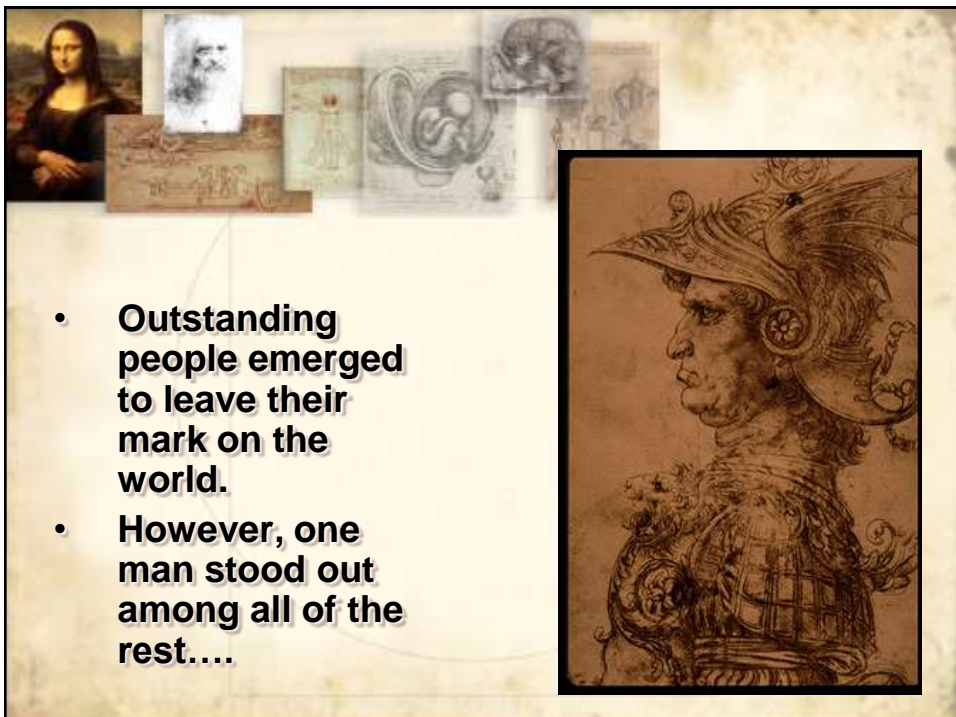
## **Project: Peeling the Layers of a Renaissance Man**





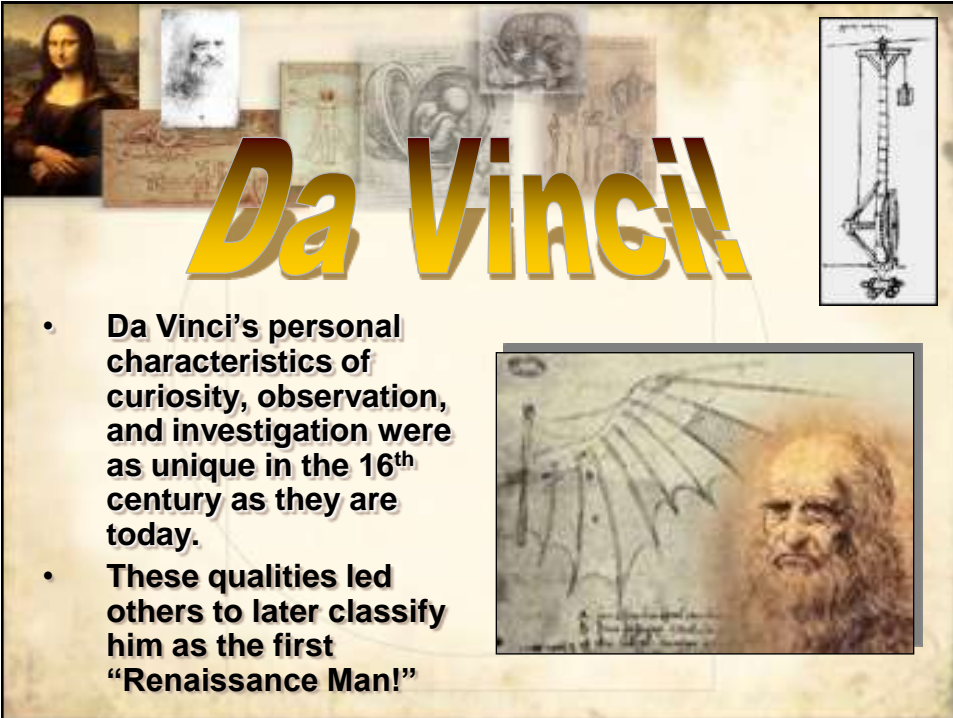
# Introduction

- If you could sweep away the layers of four centuries worth of dust and step into the lives of individuals what would you find?
- These upcoming activities will help you remove the layers from two peoples lives so you can recognize their characteristics and qualities that made them outstanding contributors to society.




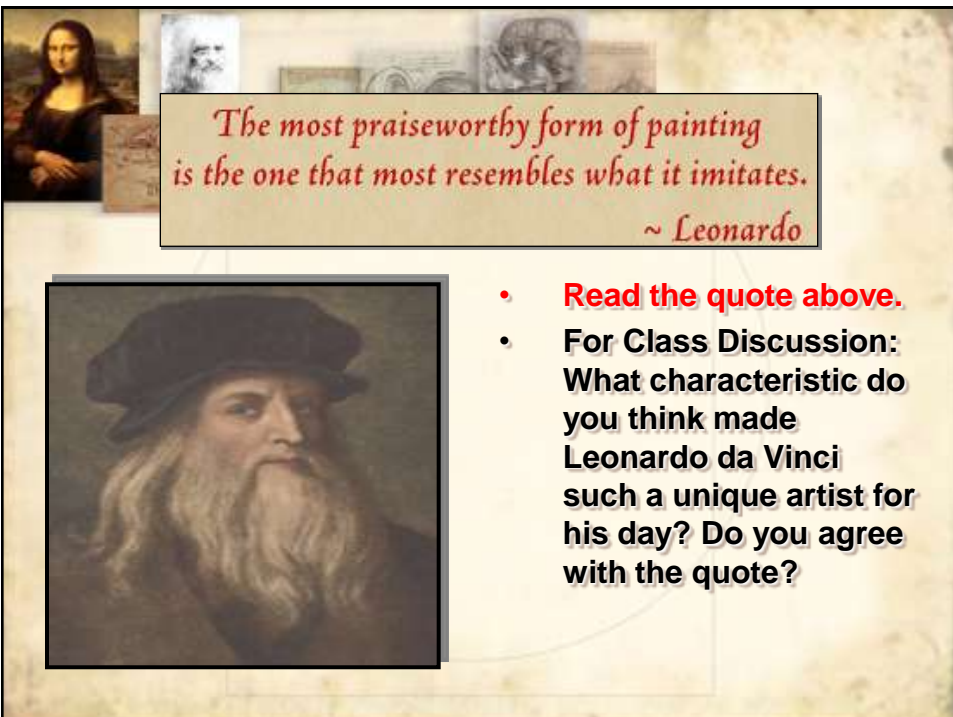
- Outstanding people emerged to leave their mark on the world.
- However, one man stood out among all of the rest....






# Da Vinci


- Da Vinci's personal characteristics of curiosity, observation, and investigation were as unique in the 16<sup>th</sup> century as they are today.
- These qualities led others to later classify him as the first "Renaissance Man!"

*The most praiseworthy form of painting is the one that most resembles what it imitates.*  
~ Leonardo



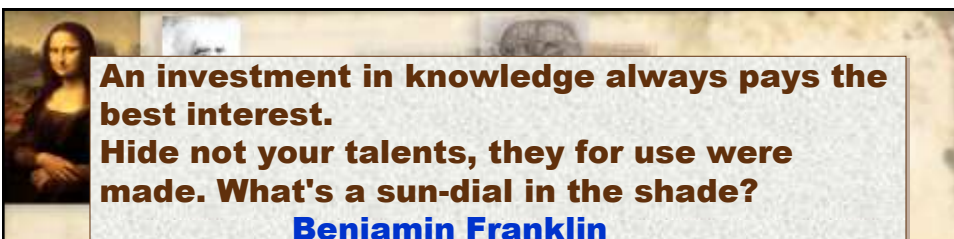
- **Read the quote above.**
- **For Class Discussion:** What characteristic do you think made Leonardo da Vinci such a unique artist for his day? Do you agree with the quote?




**What were his personal characteristics?**

Could anyone from America qualify as a Renaissance Man?

How do these individuals affect me today?

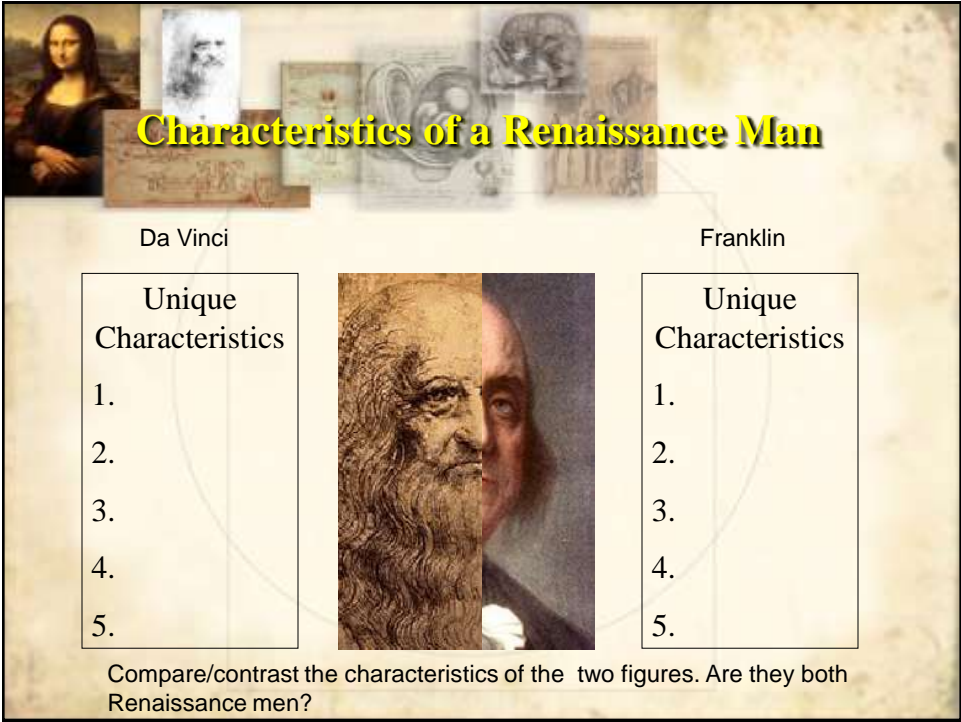


**An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.  
Hide not your talents, they for use were made. What's a sun-dial in the shade?**  
**Benjamin Franklin**



- Read the quotes above.
- For Class Discussion: Could Franklin be classified as a Renaissance man? Why?



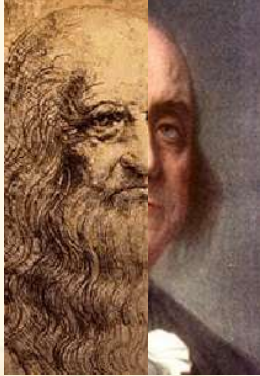


## Characteristics of a Renaissance Man

Da Vinci

Unique Characteristics

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



Franklin

Unique Characteristics

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Compare/contrast the characteristics of the two figures. Are they both Renaissance men?




## Currently I would rank myself as follows:





Few Renaissance  
Man Qualities

Most Renaissance  
Man Qualities



## Defining "The Renaissance Man"

- Da Vinci developed the so-called "**Renaissance man ideal**" --successful in business, well-mannered, educated, athletic, and brave.
- The goal of education became making people well-rounded.
- Religion remained important, but the authority and some practices of the church began to be questioned.

## Characteristics of Renaissance Art

- Use of bright colors, oil paints
- Three dimensional
- Perspective, effective use of shading and depth
- Proportional, realistic, life-like
- Appreciation of the human body
- Free-standing statues
- Individual identities, human figures express emotion
- Influenced by Greco-Roman culture (i.e. Greek myths).
- Secular and/or religious themes
- Often depicts the daily life of the upper, middle, and lower class.



## Contrasted with Medieval Art

- Medieval artists depicted subjects in an unrealistic two-dimensional style to indicate the importance of the soul over the body.




## Which is Medieval and which is Renaissance?



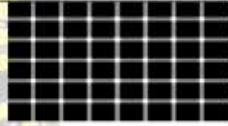



Worksheet by RJ Tarr at [www.activehistory.co.uk](http://www.activehistory.co.uk) / 1

**Optical Illusions (Homework / Extension Activity)**




Impossible Shape



How many black dots can you count?

**WKSH #1:**  
Opening Activity--  
Let's have fun with optical illusions!

**Q. How did Renaissance artists create optical illusions?**



Rotating cylinders

As fast as you can name the color of ink that each word is written then start over and read each word

**WKSH #2:**  
Let's have fun with perspective!

**Art in the Renaissance**

- Before the Renaissance, art was to glorify God. The church paid for paintings which illustrated stories from the Bible, and they weren't too bothered about making them look "realistic".
- During the Renaissance, things changed. The power of the church declined and was beginning to and rich new businesspeople were offering to pay money for realistic paintings.
- So, many artists began to experiment to learn how the eye actually sees things (a science called "optics"). In this way, they hoped to trick the eye into seeing "real" objects on a canvas.

**Task 1**  
Try out these experiments and discuss what they illustrate.

Outline of experiment	Findings (What happens or appears to happen?)	Deductions (Why does this happen?)
Hold your hand out at arm's length, and measure someone's head between your finger and thumb. Then repeat the process but with your finger and thumb only a few centimetres from your eye.		
Put your finger a few centimetres from your eyes. Close one eye, then the other whilst watching your finger.		
Roll an exercise book or a piece of paper into a tube. Look through it with your left eye. Then, place your right hand against the side of the tube.		
Point the index finger of each hand so they point at each other. Do this only a few centimetres away from your eyes. Let your eyes focus on the distance, then slowly move your fingers together until they touch.		

**Discussion Point...**  
Our eyes only give us one interpretation of the world, by receiving a certain angle of view in a certain colour range. Bats see in infra-red; flies can see 180 degrees. So what does the world REALLY look like?!

**Did you know...**  
All colours are created in the brain after being passed along by the (flawed) eye (after all, how would you describe colour to a blind person?). So there is NO WAY that you can tell whether the colour you see as "Green" is the same as anyone else. For example: if you describe "green" as "the colour of grass" all you are really saying is that it is the colour which you see when you look at grass – which might not be the same colour seen by your neighbour...

All of these experiments help to demonstrate the science of perspective, which is explained in more detail on the following page.



## High Renaissance, The

1. **Instead of the religious subjects popular in the Middle Ages, the humanists tended to use which of the following?**  
(Check only one answer)

- humans
- angels
- animals
- abstract objects

2. **The Bonfire of the Vanities involved destroying humanist books and art in an effort to \_\_\_\_\_.**  
(Check only one answer)

- punish the wealthy
- cleanse Florence of sin
- make room for new works of art
- celebrate the beginning of the Renaissance

3. **Why was Leonardo da Vinci called a "Renaissance Man"?**  
(Check only one answer)

- He was a great painter.
- He lived in Italy during the Renaissance.
- He was talented in many different areas.
- He paid for the creation of some significant works of art.



4. **How are Michelangelo's sculptures like those of the ancient Greeks?**

(Check only one answer)

- His subjects are nude.
- His subjects are always women.
- His subjects are ugly and malformed.
- His subjects are idealized and physically perfect.


5. **Unlike Michelangelo's view of the Madonna, Raphael's Madonna is \_\_\_\_\_.**

(Check only one answer)

- old
- ugly
- calm
- troubled








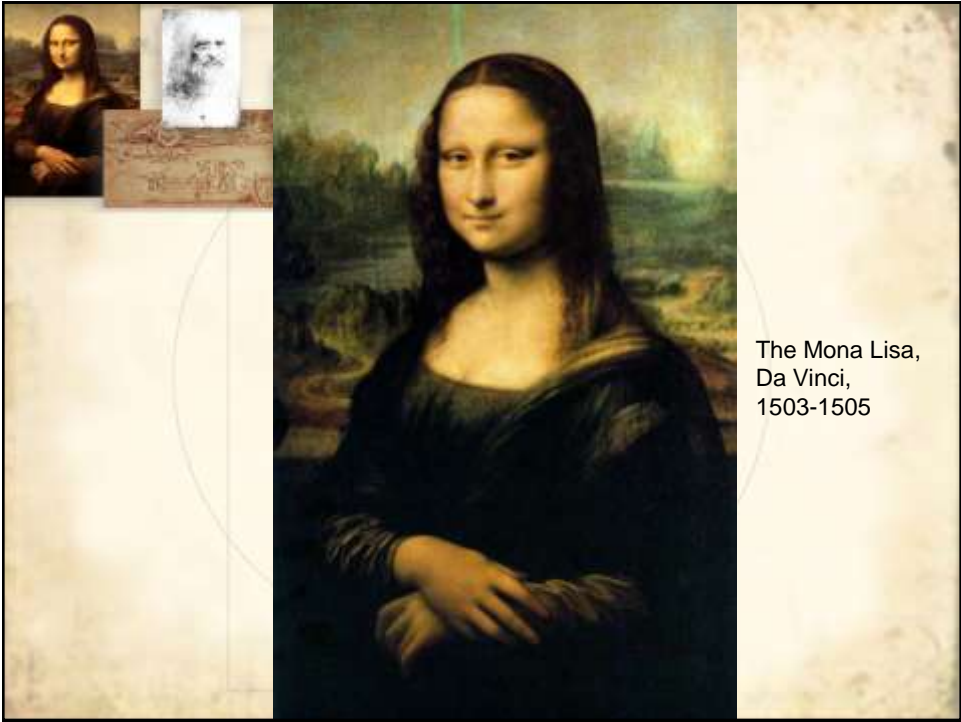
## Activity: Become A Renaissance Art Critic!

- In the following slides, you will see brief descriptions of various Renaissance artists followed by some of their masterpieces.
- Identify several characteristics and themes of Renaissance art which are exhibited in the masterpieces.
- Use the following graphic organizer...




Name of Artist:	Name of Masterpiece:	Characteristics of Renaissance Art Which Are Exhibited In Masterpiece:





The Mona Lisa,  
Da Vinci,  
1503-1505





## Raphael (1483-1520)

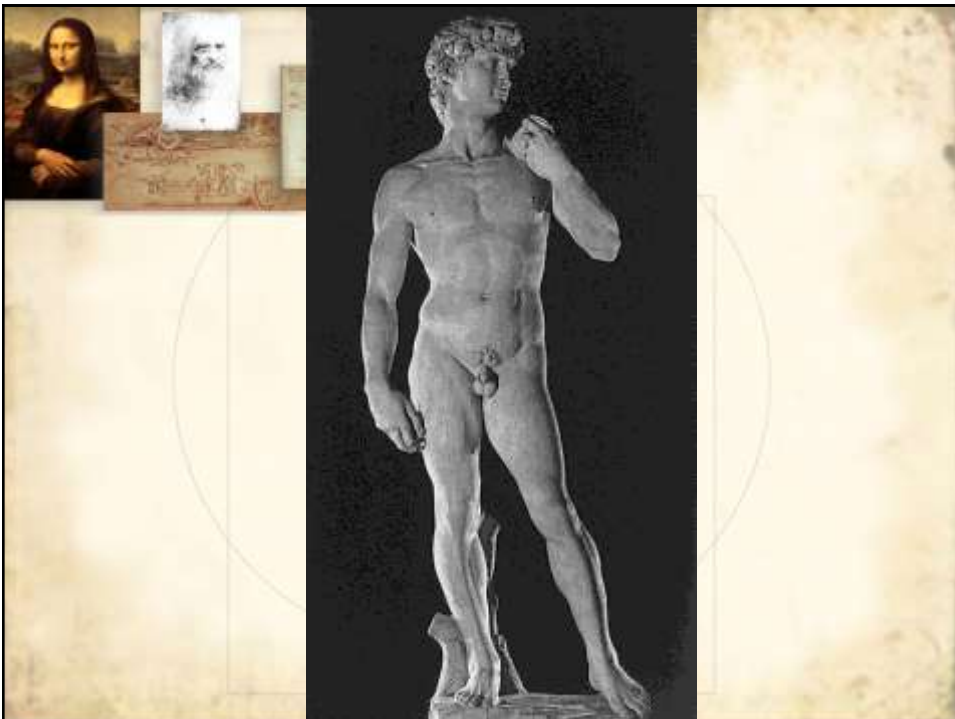
- Among his best known frescoes in the Vatican is *The School of Athens*. Raphael continued to work on the rooms until 1513, under the reign of Leo X, but left the last sections almost entirely to his pupils.
- In the meantime he worked on other tasks, such as secular and sacred decorations for various buildings, portraits, altarpieces, cartoons for tapestries, designs for dishes and stage sceneries.
- Raphael also became chief architect of the new Saint Peter's Basilica (the construction of which began in 1506)

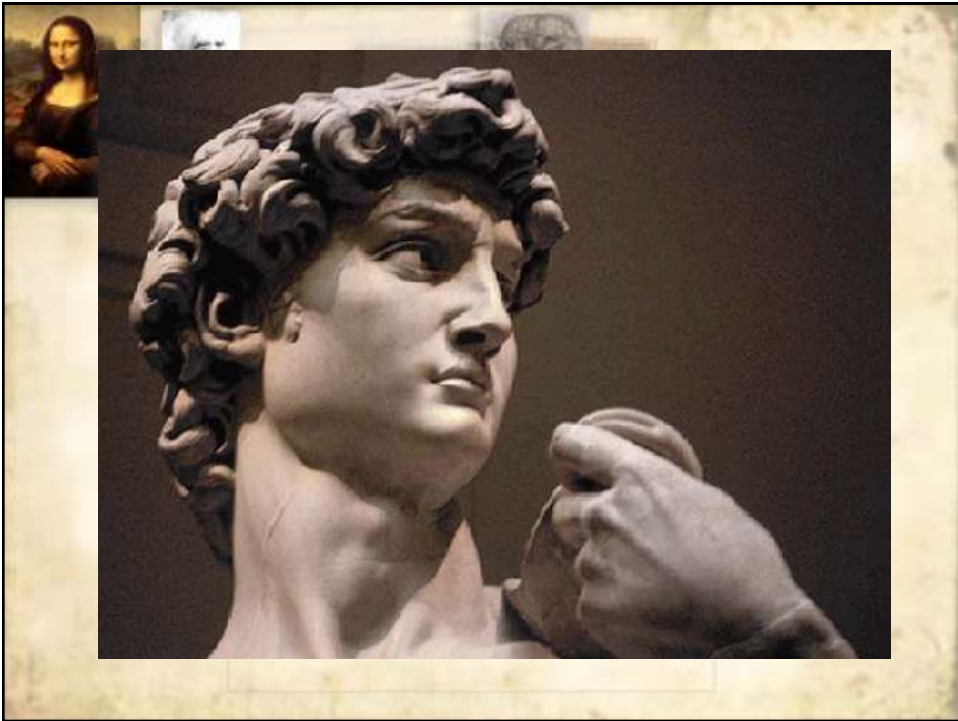



*School of Athens*, Raphael

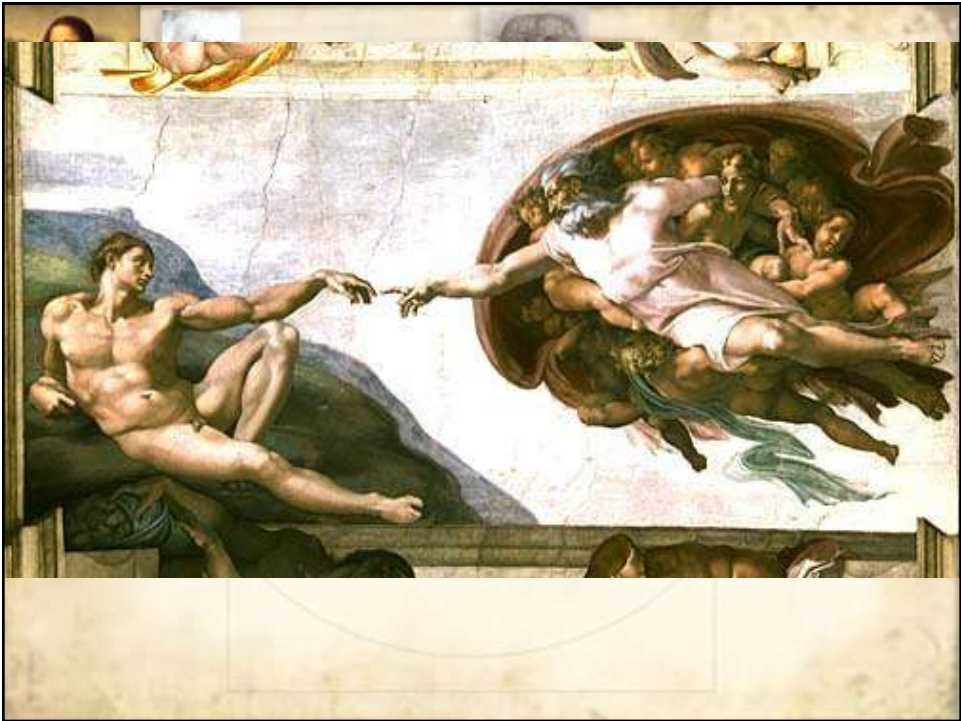
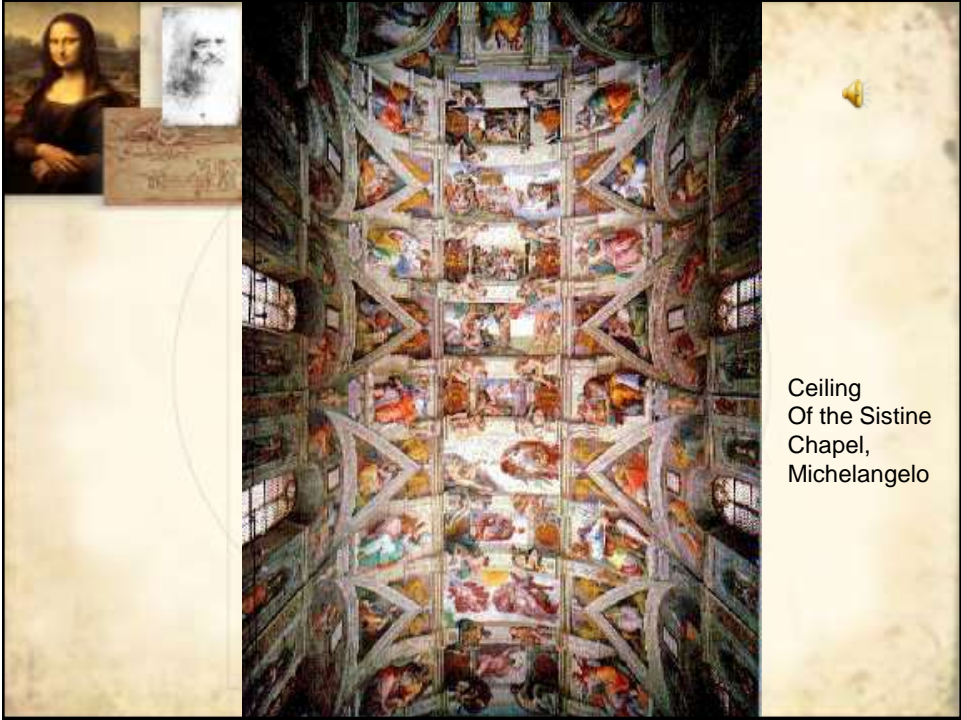


B. **Michelangelo Buonaroti (1475-1564)** painted (the Sistine Chapel ceiling), sculptured (David), designed buildings, and wrote poetry.















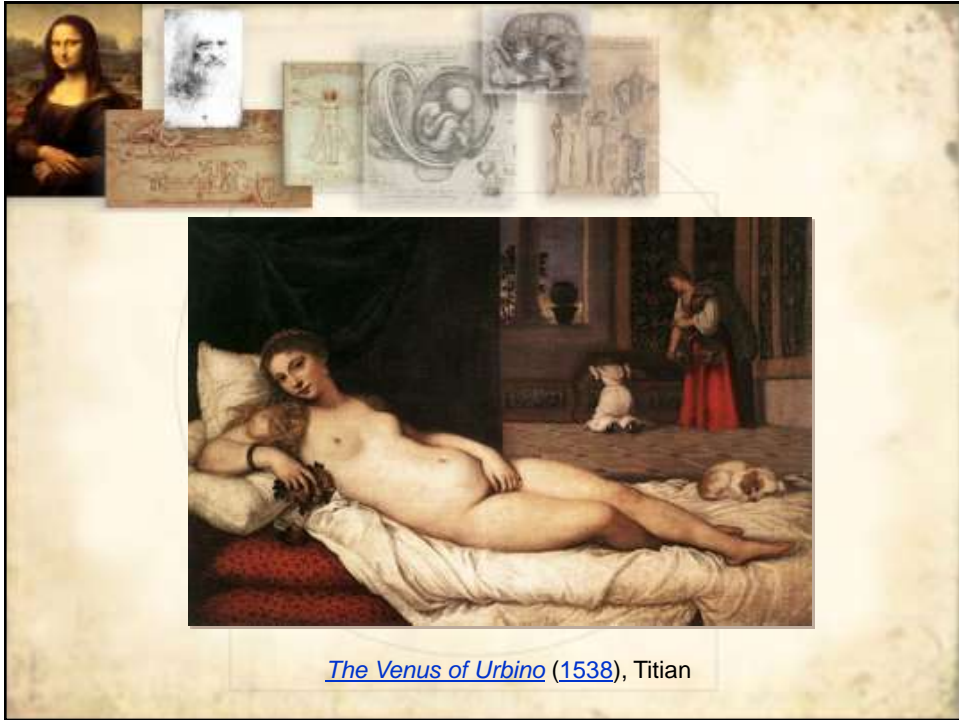
## E. Titian (1488?-1576)

**Tiziano Vecelli** or **Vecellio**, commonly known as **Titian**, was one of the greatest 16th century Renaissance painters of Venice, Italy.



*Salomé with the Head of John the Baptist*, painted circa 1515 (Galleria Doria Pamphilj, Rome)





*The Venus of Urbino* (1538), Titian

**WHO WAS THE GREATEST CHARACTER OF THE RENAISSANCE?**


In this lesson you will produce an answer to the following two questions:  
 • Who do you think was the greatest person of the Renaissance?  
 • Are there any sorts of qualities which all of these people shared that helped to make them so special?

**Instructions:**  
 • Log on to the website at [www.activehistory.co.uk](http://www.activehistory.co.uk)  
 • Select Year 8 / Renaissance / Who was the greatest character of the Renaissance?  
 • Now fill in the table below, and answer the questions at the bottom of the table.

Area being looked at	Name of character being investigated	What were the key events in their lives?	How did they contribute to the Renaissance?	Why were their contributions so important?
Art:				
Architecture:				
Medicine:				
Astronomy:				
Other:				


When you have finished, try to produce an answer to these questions.  
 Both answers together should not fill more than one side in your books.  
 1. Who do you think was the greatest person of the Renaissance? Explain your answer.  
 2. Are there any sorts of qualities which all of these people shared that helped to make them so special?  
 3. Can the developments in art, architecture, medicine and astronomy be connected in any way? Explain your answer.





## Education and Literature

- During the 1300's, Francesco Petrarca wrote **sonnets**, or short poems, that expressed his love for Laura, a woman who had died during the Black Death.

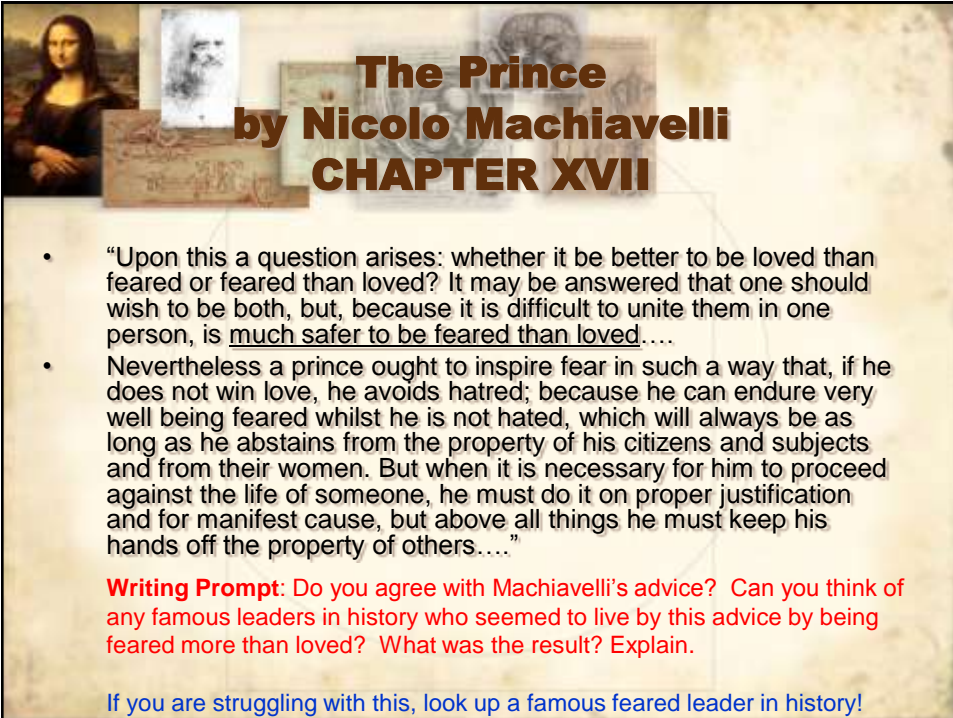



## Niccolo Machiavelli

- **Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527)**, in **The Prince (1513)** said, basically, one must do whatever one must do to get and stay in power.
- If it works, it is the "right" thing to do.
- Forget ideals; lie, cheat, even murder if you must. A stable state is needed.





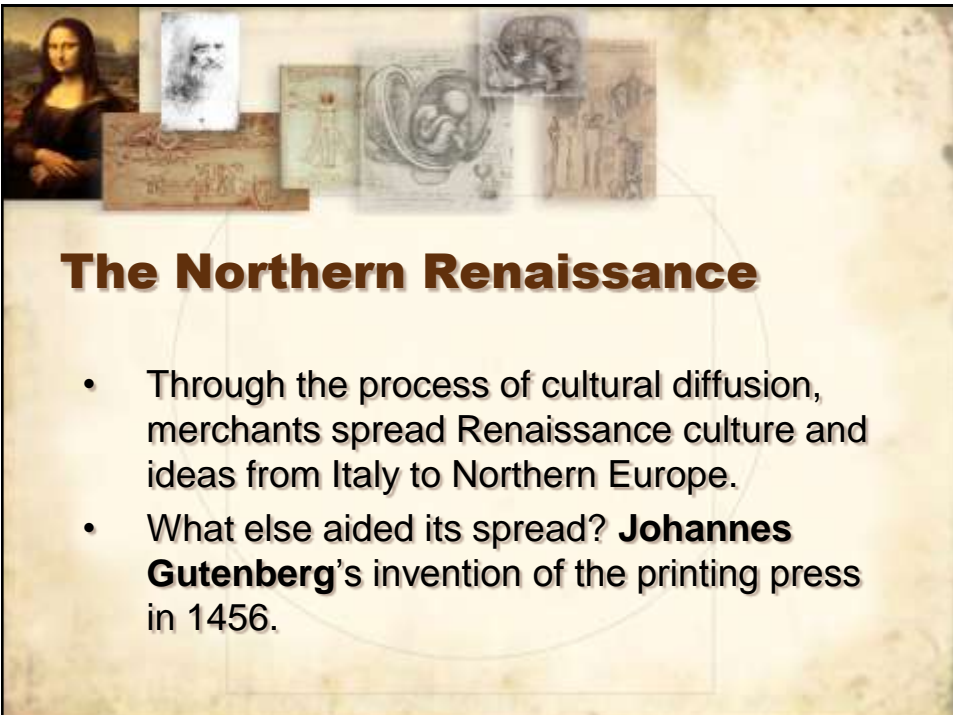


## The Prince by Nicolo Machiavelli CHAPTER XVII

- “Upon this a question arises: whether it be better to be loved than feared or feared than loved? It may be answered that one should wish to be both, but, because it is difficult to unite them in one person, is much safer to be feared than loved....
- Nevertheless a prince ought to inspire fear in such a way that, if he does not win love, he avoids hatred; because he can endure very well being feared whilst he is not hated, which will always be as long as he abstains from the property of his citizens and subjects and from their women. But when it is necessary for him to proceed against the life of someone, he must do it on proper justification and for manifest cause, but above all things he must keep his hands off the property of others....”


**Writing Prompt:** Do you agree with Machiavelli’s advice? Can you think of any famous leaders in history who seemed to live by this advice by being feared more than loved? What was the result? Explain.

If you are struggling with this, look up a famous feared leader in history!




## The Northern Renaissance

- Through the process of cultural diffusion, merchants spread Renaissance culture and ideas from Italy to Northern Europe.
- What else aided its spread? **Johannes Gutenberg**’s invention of the printing press in 1456.



## Gutenberg Bible

- The **Gutenberg Bible**, named for the inventor of printing by use of moveable type, **Johannes Gutenberg**, was completed in **1455** at Mainz, Germany.
- The three-volume Latin text arguably represents the greatest single innovation in the history of communication technology, as well as a style of printing that existed almost unaltered until the twentieth century.
- Gutenberg's invention and the dispersion of relatively cheap printed materials stimulated enormous change—social, political, economic, and religious.
- Some forty perfect vellum copies of Gutenberg's masterpiece of technological advancement still exist in the world.




## Christian Humanism in Northern Europe





- **Desiderius Erasmus (1469?-1536)**, a priest who wrote books, including *The Praise of Folly* 1509, condemned ignorance and superstition. He believed education could lead to more perfect societies.
- He inspired his colleagues to study Greek and Hebrew so that they could understand older versions of the Bible.
- His writings also Christian humanist's desire to reform Catholicism to eliminate abuse.



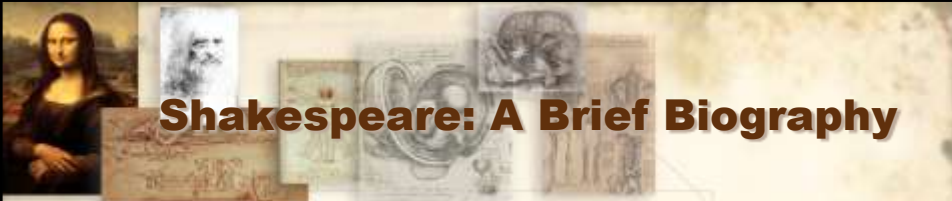
# The English Renaissance



**William Shakespeare, 1564-1616**, wrote plays showing humans as in God's image, but part of this world as well.

His epitaph reads as follows:  
 "Good Friends, for Jesus' sake forbear,  
 To dig the bones enclosed here!  
 Blest be the man that spares these stones,  
 And curst be he that moves my bones."

To this day no one has disturbed Shakespeare's grave.



## Shakespeare: A Brief Biography

- **William Shakespeare** (1564 --1616) was an English poet and playwright. He wrote 38 plays, a collection of sonnets and a variety of other poems.
- Shakespeare is considered the greatest writer of the English language and Western literature and the world's pre-eminent dramatist.
- Shakespeare is the most quoted writer in English-speaking and world history. He is often considered the English or British national poet, and is sometimes referred to as the "The Bard" or the "Sweet Swan of Avon."
- Shakespeare is believed to have produced most of his work between 1586 and 1616, although the exact dates and chronology of the plays attributed to him are often uncertain. He is counted among the very few playwrights who have excelled in both tragedy and comedy, and his plays combine popular appeal with complex characterization, poetic grandeur and philosophical depth.

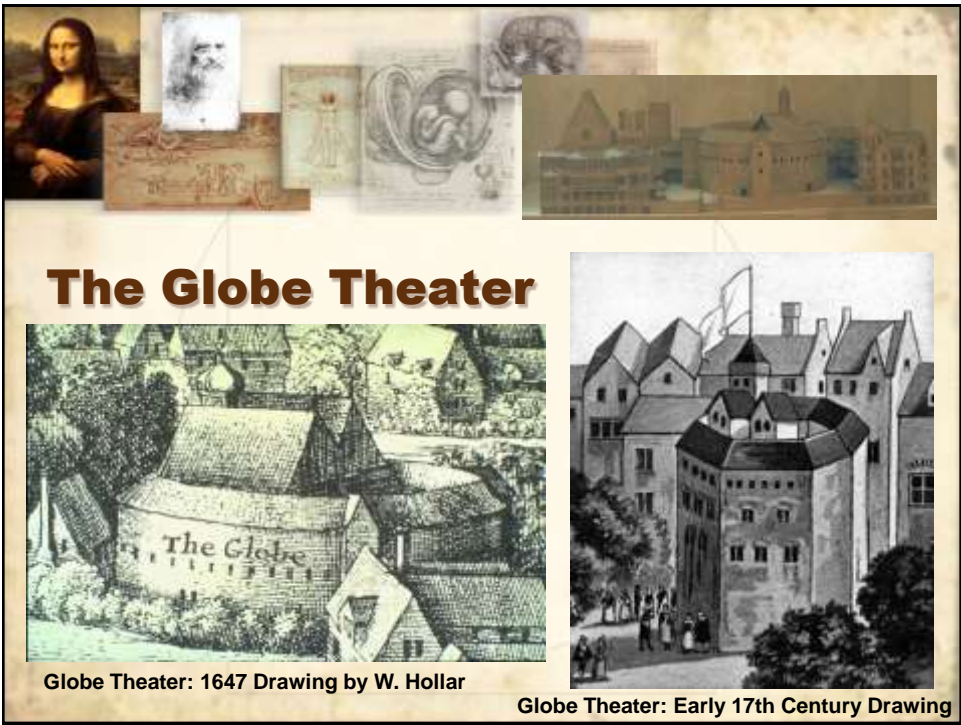




**Shakespeare's Hamlet**

"To be or not to be...."

A playbill for the Globe




**The Globe Theater**

Globe Theater: 1647 Drawing by W. Hollar

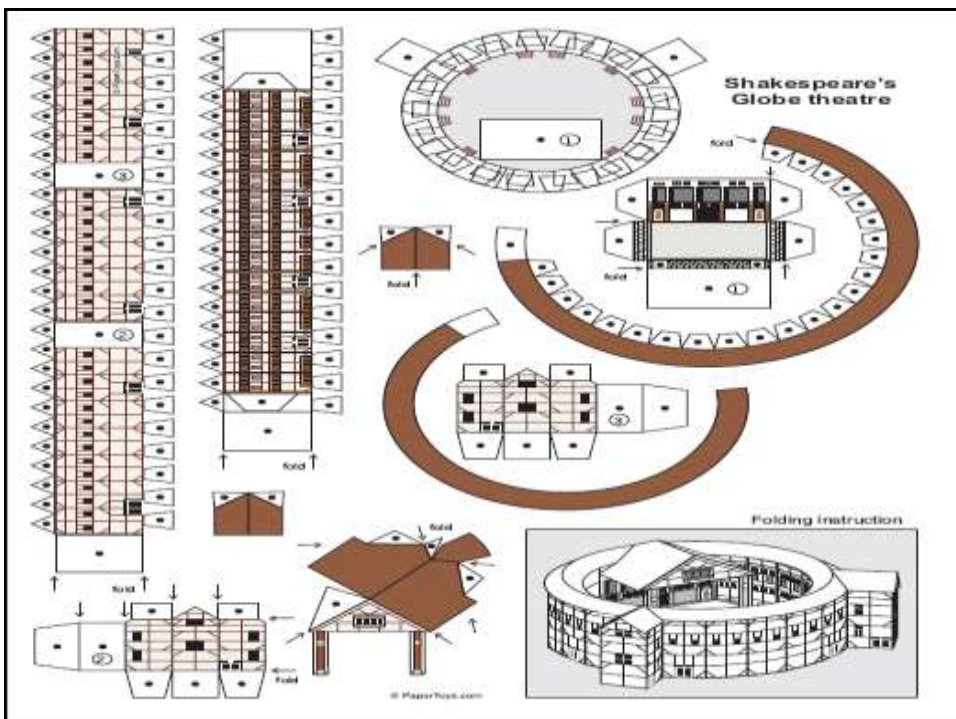
Globe Theater: Early 17th Century Drawing





## ACTIVITIES ON SHAKESPEARE AND GLOBE THEATER:

- COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:
  - 1) Read “Shakespeare’s Globe Theater: An Overview” and complete all questions and activities as directed.
  - 2) Construct the Globe Theater paper model!



## Renaissance Final PowerPoint Project

**Overview**

This project is designed to allow students to explore the history of the Renaissance. Students will also examine the history of the time preceding the Renaissance to gain insight into the factors which led to its rise. Finally, students will showcase their findings in a PowerPoint presentation!

**Objectives**

To develop students' historical research skills. To foster an understanding of the Renaissance as a society and as a product of the prevailing philosophies of the time. To submit students' written and oral skills.

**Materials and Equipment**

Library and Web access for research, Microsoft PowerPoint.

**Project Requirements:**

For your final project, you will be on stage, requiring your own research, preparation and 100% participation (the majority of your final grade depends on this)! You will create and present a PowerPoint presentation, in response to one or more of the questions listed. Note: If you do not know how to use PowerPoint, I can easily teach it to you within twenty minutes. If the majority of class needs this instruction, I will give a PowerPoint tutorial. If you do not have PowerPoint, you can download it for free for 60 days at <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/xl/office/default.aspx>.

**Questions to Explore:**

- 1) How was the art of the Renaissance different from the "Dark Ages"? Why? Where did it start? What led to this opening up of thought?
- 2) Why were art forms and themes of Classical Greece and Rome important? How does their rediscovery affect the thinking of the times?
- 3) What social changes occurred around this time? Consider the rise of the mercantile classes, the rise of city states, the guild system, the role of the church. How were these social changes reflected in Renaissance art?
- 4) Consider the expansion of trade and travel that occurred at this time. How could this have affected the thinking of artists?
- 5) How did the art of this period reflect the religious climate, the politics and city states, the philosophies and dominant ideas of the time, as well as the organization of society?
- 6) How are the political, economic, social and cultural changes during this time period reflected in the work of the artists? Moreover, to what extent were the artists themselves a driving force of change?


**Renaissance Artists to Focus on (Choose at least three):**

- 1) Botticelli, Hieronymus
- 2) Botticelli, Giotto
- 3) Brunelleschi, Pieter the Elder
- 4) Chiriacco (Miconangelo), Michel
- 5) Cellini, Benvenuto
- 6) Correggio (Antonio Allegri)
- 7) Della Robbia, Luca
- 8) Donatello
- 9) Duccio
- 10) Ghirlandi, Lorenzo
- 11) Ghirlandi, Giovanni
- 12) Leonardo da Vinci
- 13) Michelangelo
- 14) Raphael, Raffaello Sanzio

**Other Requirements:**

Twelve-fifteen (12-15) slides with an introduction and thesis statement, body, conclusion and a bibliographic list of sources. Your thesis statement should address at least one of the central questions that I provided, and you should use a wealth of evidence to back up your arguments. Yes, a PowerPoint presentation is a lot like a well-organized research paper, except that it also involves the creative use of visuals, subtitles and probing questions to get us to think! Your bibliography must contain at least five credible sources. Please see me with questions.

**Due Date:** \_\_\_\_\_, if possible, Please bring your saved project on a flash drive.



## FOR YOUR RENAISSANCE PROJECT:

### Which of the following is a strong thesis statement?

- YES, I KNOW THIS IS NOT THE RENAISSANCE BUT IT'S GOOD PRACTICE:
  - 1) This essay will show who assassinated Kennedy.
  - 2) Many theories exist about who killed Kennedy.
  - 3) Based upon recently released declassified information from the CIA and FBI, evidence now suggests that hitmen hired by the mafia completed the assassination.
  - 4) I will prove that Kennedy was killed by Fidel Castro.



## HOW DO YOU DEVELOP A THESIS STATEMENT? AND SUPPORT IT?

- The thesis statement is your statement of purpose. Thesis statements do not use "I" or "my;" even though the idea present in your thesis statement is your own, use third person for a stronger, more confident approach.
- **Use the following format for developing a good thesis statement.**
- A) Write your topic.
- B) Write your opinion about the topic.
- C) Write three or four reasons why you hold that opinion.
- **Example:**
- A) Topic: nuclear power
- B) Opinion: should not be used
- C) Why: 1. It is potentially dangerous.
- 2. It is more expensive than other alternatives.
- 3. It causes water, land and air pollution.
- **Thesis statement = A+B+C**
- Nuclear power should not be used because it is potentially dangerous, it is more expensive than other alternatives, and it causes water, air and land pollution.
- **REMEMBER: BACK UP YOUR THESIS AND ARGUMENTS WITH RELIABLE HISTORICAL EVIDENCE!**



## EXTRAS







