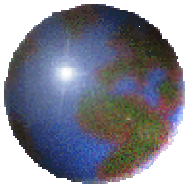


The Age of the Renaissance

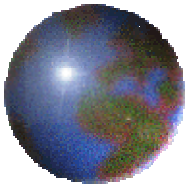
1400-1600

“Men can do all things...if they will”
Leon Battista Alberti (architect)



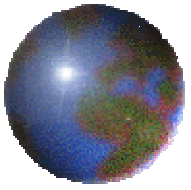
ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- Why did the Renaissance begin in Italy?
- How did Renaissance art differ from Medieval art?
- How did humanism and secularism differ from previous Medieval beliefs?
- Why did the Renaissance eventually spread to the rest of Europe?
- Do Renaissance ideas still affect us today?



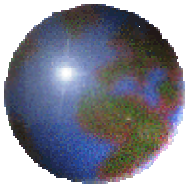
The “Dark Ages”

- Renaissance thinkers referred to the Middle Ages as the “Dark Ages”.
- They believed that the “light of learning” had gone out in Europe at the fall of Rome.
- Renaissance thinkers wanted to rediscover the ancient Greeks and Romans.



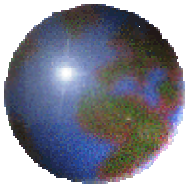
The Fourteenth Century

- ✿ Revived trade
- ✿ Black Death
- ✿ Hundred Years War (France & England)
- ✿ Great Schism (up to three Popes)
- ✿ Wide gap between rich & poor
- ✿ Clergy is the most educated
- ✿ Catholic Church corrupt & powerful



Changes by 1450

- ✿ Recovery from Plague
- ✿ France “wins” war; nationalism
- ✿ Printing press invented
- ✿ Vernacular literature & “how-to”s
- ✿ Increasing criticism of clergy behavior
- ✿ Increasing interest in secularism
- ✿ Revival of Greco-Roman ideas/art

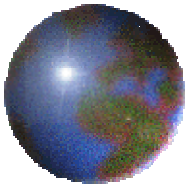


“Rebirth” begins in Italy

- Center for trade
 - The Italian city-states had grown wealthy due to their location and ability to benefit from the trade between Europe and Asia.
- Wealthy merchants
 - Wealth from trade could be used to support artistic endeavors.
- Heritage of Rome
 - People began to look to the ancient Greeks and Romans for inspiration.
- Recovered 1st from plague
- No central government

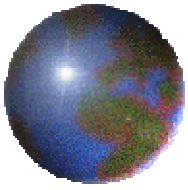


States of Italy during the Renaissance, c.1494



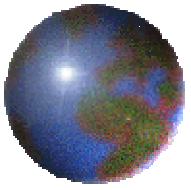
Renaissance Art

- During the Middle Ages, painting largely focused on religious themes.
- During the Renaissance, artists showed more interest in ancient Greek and Roman classical art.
- Painters sought greater realism in their art.
- During the Renaissance, an individualist spirit emerged in art.
- Artists felt free to depict themes from the classical civilizations of the past to religious themes.
- Artists used new techniques in painting.
- During the Renaissance, artists began rendering the world in three dimensions. Perspective is the ability to create a three dimensional appearance on a two dimensional surface.



Humanism and Secularism

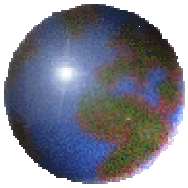
- Humanism emphasizes the worth and uniqueness of each individual. Humanism is the belief that human actions, ideas, and works are important.
- Secularism is a non-religious viewpoint. Secularists look to scientific thinking for answers as opposed to religion.
- While these ideas first became popular in Italy, they eventually spread to the rest of Europe.



Italian Humanism

- ✿ Balance secular & religious life
- ✿ Become educated & worldly
- ✿ Study the classics
- ✿ Be an individual
- ✿ Money & power is good





Northern Humanism

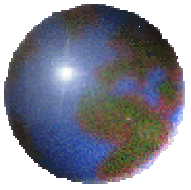


* Longford Castle, Comte de Radnor

Erasmus
1523

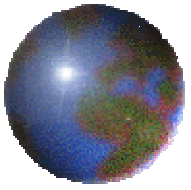
H. 1,76, L. 6,52

- ✚ Began later
- ✚ More religious than Italian humanism
- ✚ Social reform based on Christian ideals
- ✚ Critical of Catholic Church
- ✚ Translated Greek Bible (Erasmus)



Renaissance Education

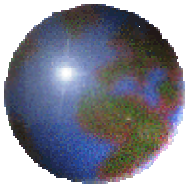
- ✿ Universities less scholastic; more practical
- ✿ Liberal arts curriculum
- ✿ Printing press makes it possible
- ✿ Use education to get ahead in commerce & politics – “civic virtue”
- ✿ Only for the elite!



Renaissance Society

- ✿ Nobility & Merchant class blend
 - ▣ Serving the state is important
 - ▣ Chivalry

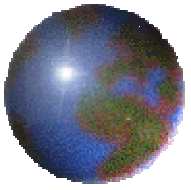
- ✿ 90% of Europe is POOR
 - ▣ Serfdom ends after the Black Death (West)
 - ▣ Artisans, small bankers, shopkeepers in towns (guilds)



Women in the Renaissance

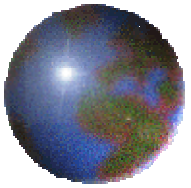
- ✦ Fathers/husbands “owned” women
- ✦ 10% die in childbirth
- ✦ Manage households
- ✦ Very limited education for elite women
- ✦ Some powerful women





Family in the Renaissance

- ✿ Men delayed marriages
- ✿ Most marriages arranged for political or economic reasons
- ✿ Wealthy families had more children
- ✿ Italian “families” were extended
- ✿ Father had complete control over his wife & children (infidelity OK)



Other Keys to Renaissance Europe

- ✚ Art
- ✚ “New Monarchies” – France, England, Spain
- ✚ Italian politics & Machiavelli
- ✚ Overseas exploration