

Renaissance Study Guide

7.40 Explain how the location of the Italian Peninsula impacted the movement of resources, knowledge, and culture throughout Italy's independent trade cities.

- I can locate the Italian Peninsula.
- I can list the major trade cities of the Italian Peninsula (Florence, Venice, Milan, Genoa, Rome)
- I can explain how the location of the Italian Peninsula impacted trade.
- I can explain how the location of the Italian Peninsula was key to the diffusion of resources, knowledge, and culture.

7.41 Identify the importance of Florence, Italy and the Medici Family in the early stages of the Renaissance

I can explain the importance of Florence, Italy in the early stages of the Renaissance.

I can explain how the wealthy banking family, the Medici's, and their patronage of the arts were essential to the beginnings of the Renaissance.

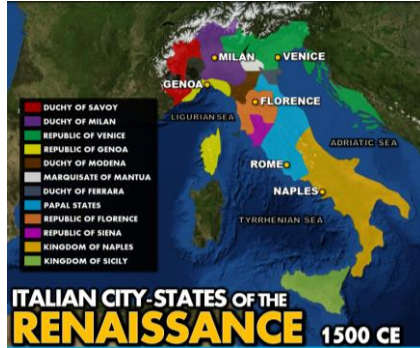
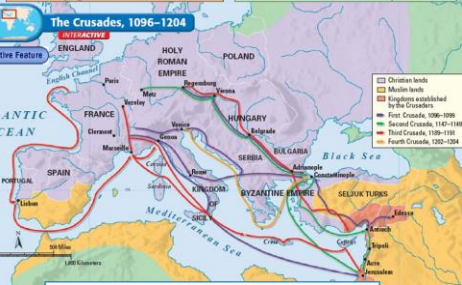
- **Florence** is often named as the birthplace of the **Renaissance**. The early writers and artists of the period came from this city in Italy.
- As a center for the European wool trade, the political power of the city rested primarily in the hands of the wealthy merchants, the Medici Family who were able to support these artists and writers.

Medici Family

- Giovanni de Medici started the Medici Bank and was the leader of the Florence merchants.
- Wool trading and banking made the Medici Family gain prominence in Florence, Italy.
- The Medici Family controlled Florence, Italy.
- The patronage of the Medici Family allowed artists to focus on their work without having to worry about money – artists could focus on creating art.
- Because of their wealth they were able to become patrons of the arts.

The Crusades increased European demand for luxury goods from Asia

Italian merchants began meeting the demand for trade in Europe



- The **Renaissance** was a **rebirth** of the classics (ancient Greek and Roman thinking and styles)
- Reason for **Italy** as the birthplace of the Renaissance was the concentration of wealth, power, and intellect in the Church.
- Italy was the center of trade in the Mediterranean Sea. It was positioned in the middle of many important trading routes between Asia and the rest of Western Europe
- located in the middle of trade routes allowed for more people to interact and Renaissance spread knowledge

Renaissance = “re-birth”

Patron = a person who gives financial or other support to a person, organization, cause, or activity

The Medici Family

- Florence's richest family (bankers) circa 1400s.
 - 1435 Cosimo de' Medici ruled the city.
 - Patron of the arts. He commissioned or paid many artists including: Donatello, Botticello, da Vinci, Michelangelo, and more...
 - Built libraries to improve education.
- Closely tied to the Church → God's bank
- Other family members become church officials, popes, queens, dukes and political leaders.



Would the Renaissance have happened without the Medici Family?



7.42 Explain humanism, and describe how Thomas Aquinas's writings influenced humanistic thought and fostered a balance between reason and faith.

- I can define humanism
- I can explain how Thomas Aquinas's writings fostered a balance between reason and faith
- I can explain how humanism led to a renewed interest in the arts and a balance between intellect and religious faith (faith and reason).

Humanism

- Focus on the importance of the individual and other living things.
- Look to Reason to make sense of the world
- Question EVERYTHING

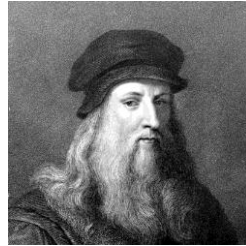
Medieval Catholic Church

- Question nothing
- Look to FAITH alone to make sense of the world.

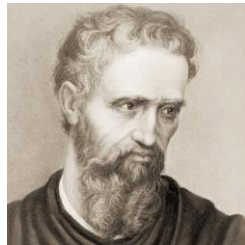
Thomas Aquinas – Catholic Priest

- Believed that Reason and Faith could coexist
- Believed that humans are capable of doing good.
- Helped combine philosophical ideas (Reason) with those of the church proving that philosophy (Reason) and theology (Faith) do not have to be in conflict with each other.
- Faith builds on reason. Since faith and reason are both ways of arriving at truth -- and since all truths are harmonious with each other -- faith is consistent with reason

Leonardo da Vinci



Michelangelo



7.43 Explain the development of Renaissance art, including the significance of:

- Leonardo da Vinci**
- Michelangelo**
- William Shakespeare**

Systems of patronage

There were two main **systems of artistic patronage** in Renaissance Italy.

1. A patron could take an artist into his household and in return the artist would supply the patron's artistic needs.
2. Or a patron could commission a single work from an artist and employ him until that work was finished.

Leonardo da Vinci was famous for his designs, art, cartography, geology, and studies. **Leonardo's** designs later helped us to invent things like the tank, parachute, helicopter and many other things. His natural genius crossed so many disciplines that he epitomized the term "**Renaissance man.**" Today he remains best known for his art, including two paintings that remain among the world's most famous and admired, **Mona Lisa and The Last Supper.**



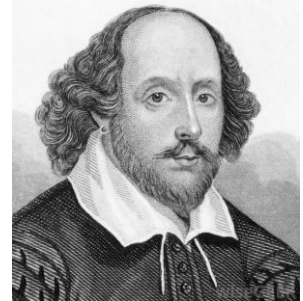
Michelangelo was a brilliant man of many talents. He worked on the Medici Chapel, the Laurentian Library, and St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. He was commissioned by the Pope in 1508 to paint the ceiling of the **Sistine Chapel.** Michelangelo considered himself to be a sculptor, but agreed to paint the Sistine Chapel for the Pope. He worked for four years, painting upside down on a scaffold in order to finish the painting.

Shakespeare embraced the **Renaissance** in the following ways:

Shakespeare updated the simplistic, two-dimensional writing style of pre-**Renaissance** drama. He focused on creating human characters with psychological complexity.

... **Shakespeare** utilized his knowledge of Greek and Roman classics when writing his plays

Shakespeare



Renaissance Art – individualism, showed individual people instead of groups, secularism – fewer church paintings, nature – outdoors, realism, showed depth, focused on defined and precise human features, realistic, colors brighter and the use of light.