

NORTHERN RENAISSANCE

During 1300-1600, the Renaissance in Italy beautified its cities and there was a wide spread of Greek and Roman art and literature. The effects of the renaissance spread to the North leading to the Northern Renaissance which lasted from 1450-1600. Leaders in the North, such as in England, Holland, Germany, and France, commissioned artists to create statues, parks, and palaces to make their cities more magnificent like that of Italy. For example, in France, King Francis I imported Italian art and commissioned Italian artists to build massive palaces at great expense. Even though the Northern Renaissance was majorly influenced by the Italian renaissance, the two were not exactly the same.

The North concentrated much more on their belief with Christianity. The painters therefore painted religious pictures, whereas the Italians were inspired by humanism. The North also tried to rebuild a stronger church; the Italians tried to rebuild the society of the Romans and Greeks. Another difference could be found in the literature: the North wrote about the church and Christ, while the South, the Italians, wrote about politics. Even though the church was corrupt, it was still strong enough to make the Northern Renaissance more religious. The Northern artists did eventually catch up with the techniques, such as 3D and perspective, set forth by the Italian artists but their paintings mainly revolved around everyday life and religion. Another major thing that separates the Northern Renaissance from the Italian Renaissance is the architecture.

[insert pic of gothic cathedral & greek architecture & explain differences]

One thing that was unique about the Northern Renaissance was the idea of having a Utopian society. Utopia can be described as an imaginary land where everything is perfect and all people are peace-loving and happy. The society was uniform which meant that all the cities shared the same language, customs, institutions and laws. All the Utopians must work at agriculture. Also, everyone worked at a trade of their own choice however, the trade must be useful to society. Although every citizen was required to work, each person only worked for six hours a day. Food was distributed equally and the sick got first priority. If the people harvested too much food then the extra was shared with neighbouring nations who may be suffering from the plague or famine. The rest could also be used in trade. Idling was despised and gambling was not allowed. Since idling was not allowed, Utopians were expected to do activities such as reading, learning or practicing their trades.

Thomas More wrote about this type of society in his book *Utopia*. He believed that the root of all evil was pride and that these problems would be eliminated with the absence of money. He also stated that "When no one owns anything, all are rich." In around 1994, a man by the name of Howard Turney came across the island Misteriosa Bank in the Caribbean. Turney decided that it would be the perfect destination for a society he has wanted to build for ages. Naming himself Prince Lazarus, he has claimed the land and calls it New Utopia. According to Prince Lazarus's plans, there will be no taxes in New Utopia. The country will be run by a board of governors who have been appointed by the Prince himself. The main sources of income for New Utopia will be the banking and insurance industries, a state-of-the-art anti-ageing medical centre, and tourism.

William Shakespeare was an English playwright. He wrote *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, and *Hamlet*. While writing these plays, he created 3,000 words. How many

words have YOU created?? The invention of the printing press would help spread his plays.

The invention of the Gutenberg printing press in 1455 was the most important event that occurred during the Northern Renaissance. With the help of borrowed money, Johannes Gutenberg began his Bible project: two hundred copies of the Gutenberg Bible were printed. Roughly fifty Gutenberg Bibles survive today. The effect of the printing press was that it could cut the costs of books because it was able to produce the books at a much faster pace. Now the peasants could also more easily afford books. The Bible was translated into German and now the peasants could read for themselves what the Bible said without having the priests interpret it for them. Printing could spread new ideas quickly and with greater impact.

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/fa/Vicenza-Basilica_palladiana2.jpg

<http://www.jbriankelly.com/Kylemore%20Gothic%20Church.gif>