

Renaissance/Reformation Overview

Renaissance is two things. First, it is a rebirth of ideas, like art and philosophy, that revived Greek and Roman culture. Second, it is a beginning of new ideas, including art, literature, science, and more.

A. Renaissance begins

1. Early 1300s in Italian city-states. Florence first, then Venice, Genoa, others
2. Culture jumped across Mediterranean from Istanbul, capital of the Ottomans
3. Trade then caused cultural diffusion

B. Five causes of the Renaissance

1. Trade – exchange of goods and ideas
 - a. Trade exchanged ideas, also built wealth
2. Crusades – exchange of ideas, but mostly killing
 - a. Europeans were exposed to culture in the Eastern Mediterranean
3. Scandals in the Catholic Church – people looked away from church for ideas
 - a. People still religious, but sought knowledge from sources other than church
4. Competition between wealthy people/cities – like MTV cribs – who has more...
 - a. Medici Family in Florence; powerful, wealthy, influential *patrons* of the arts
5. People become more worldly, less spiritual
 - a. People still religious, but thinking not just about afterlife; this life matters too!

C. Examples of changes in the Renaissance

1. Art, Architecture – Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, etc.
2. Literature – Machiavelli, More, Shakespeare, etc.
3. Invention – Da Vinci, Guttenberg, van Eyck
4. Scientists – Copernicus
5. Explorers – Columbus

D. Humanism

1. This life matters, not just the afterlife
2. Art and literature expand
3. Include subjects other than just religion
4. Petrarch – “Father of Humanism” – built, shared a library of Greek and Roman books
5. Be a “Renaissance Man”

E. Reading and writing grows

1. Guttenberg invents printing press 1456 – first book is Bible
2. More books available at lower cost
3. Books in vernacular – everyday languages, not just Latin
4. Number of books increase from a few thousand to 15-20 million by about 1500

F. Renaissance writers

1. Machiavelli – The Prince – “better to be feared than loved” – “end justifies means”
2. Castiglione – The Book of the Courtier – about behavior, manners
3. Erasmus – called for Bible to be written in Vernacular, not just Latin
4. More – Utopia – perfect society – social criticism
5. Shakespeare – many plays and sonnets – invented words – he’s everywhere! Romeo and Juliet. Hamlet. Macbeth. Midsummer Night’s Dream. Taming of the Shrew = 10 Things I Hate About You. Twelfth Night = She’s the Man.

G. Renaissance Artists – first Italians in Florence, later moves North to Netherlands, etc.

1. Leonardo da Vinci. Should be Leonardo da Man, as he was everything. Painter, sculptor, scientist, inventor. da Man. Mona Lisa. Last Supper. Helicopters.
2. Michelangelo – painter and sculptor – Pieta, David, Sistine Chapel!
3. Raphael – painter – School of Athens – perspective
4. Donatello – sculptor – bronze David
5. Durer – “German Leonardo” – painter of religious reform
6. Van Eyck – invented oil paint

Reformation was a religious movement in Europe in the 1500s to remake the Catholic Church. It began as a protest against Church corruption and spread throughout Europe.

H. Renaissance ideas lead to criticism of Catholic Church practices

1. Many causes – humanism, education from other sources, more books in vernacular

I. Church abuses and corruption

1. Non-religious activities – Church playing politics
2. Fancy lifestyles of Popes etc.
3. Increase in fees for services – baptisms, weddings, etc.
4. Indulgences. Basically paying for forgiveness of sins

J. Luther’s 95 Theses

1. Martin Luther was a German monk who challenged Church practices
2. Challenged indulgences – no basis in the Bible
3. Challenged some authority of the Pope
4. Stressed following the Bible, not priests or Popes
5. Nailed his list of 95 Theses on the front door of a church in Wittenberg, Germany
6. Copies spread – big protests and controversy
7. Church ordered Luther to recant, change his mind – no way!
8. Since the church would not reform itself, others must reform the church – Reformation!
9. Luther called for an end to indulgences, confession, pilgrimages, prayers to saints
10. Luther called for faith through Bible alone; priests had no special powers etc.
11. Luther translated the Bible into German so “all” could read it and all towns should have schools

K. Luther's ideas spread

1. Luther's ideas spread through Northern Germany and Scandinavia
2. Many saw Luther's ideas as the answer to Church corruption
3. Some adopted Luther's ideas for political gain, Machiavelli style
4. Some peasants tried to use reformation to gain more rights. Fail!
5. Wars erupt between Catholic and Protestant areas
6. Northern Europe becomes mostly Protestant – Southern Europe remains mostly Catholic
7. England starts Catholic, King Henry VIII switches country to Protestant to get a divorce
 - a. Creates Anglican Church (Church of England)
8. Queen Elizabeth creates balance by blending Catholic rituals in Protestant Anglican Church

L. John Calvin continues Reformation

1. Frenchman priest and lawyer writes *Institutes of the Christian Religion*
2. Like Luther, followed faith and Bible alone; not priests etc.
3. Preached predestination; God had already determined who would achieve salvation (?)
 - a. Divided world into saints and sinners
 - b. Called for people to live like saints
4. Led Calvinist community in Geneva in today's Switzerland
 - a. Created a model community (utopia) built on faith, hard work, morality
5. Luther and Calvin both believed in (religious) education for all, including girls
6. Reformers from all over Europe visited Geneva and carried home Calvinist ideas

M. Reforms in the Catholic Church

1. Pope calls Council of Trent to announce Catholic Church changes and reforms
 - a. Bible not only source of truth; Popes and Priests too!
 - b. Faith alone not enough for salvation; good works and sacraments too
 - c. Rejected predestination; people have free will
2. Church enforces reforms through Inquisition
 - a. Inquisition reasserts Church power through fear, terror, torture
 - b. Bans books, including those by Luther, Calvin
3. Peace of Augsburg (1555) tries to stop fighting; allowed local princes to choose Catholic/Lutheran
4. Church recognizes Jesuits, strict Catholics who oppose previous Church corruption

N. Religious feelings created intolerance

1. Witch hunts arose as people became suspicious of each other
2. Jews persecuted, exiled, Torahs burned, forced to wear Star of David, etc.
3. Jews expelled from Spain in 1492
4. Jews in Italy ordered to live in a part of the city called the *ghetto*

O. Scientific developments -- astronomy

1. Copernicus developed heliocentric (sun-centered) theory of the solar system
2. Brahe developed evidence to support heliocentric solar system
3. Kepler calculated orbits of planets

4. Galileo proved heliocentric system through observation of Jupiter's moons
5. These ideas contradicted classical thinking of Ptolemy
6. Were resisted by many, including Church
 - a. Galileo forced to recant by Inquisition
7. If prior thinking was wrong, what else were they wrong about?

P. Scientific method is a new approach to science

1. Hypothesis -> test -> conclusion -> repeat
2. Bacon believed in experimentation and observation
3. Descartes believed in provable reasoning; "I think, therefore I am"

Q. Isaac Newton and laws of motion

1. A body at rest or in motion will remain so unless acted on by an outside force
2. Force equals mass times acceleration
3. For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction
4. Gravity
5. Newton stood on the shoulders of giants

R. Other science; Chemistry and Medicine

1. Boyle – pressure and temperature are directly related
2. Vesalius published *On the Structure of the Human Body*; most detailed body study to date
3. Harvey described the cardiovascular system; heart and blood circulation
4. Van Leeuwenhoek invented/perfected the microscope