

Do Now - The Reformation

As you learned in your study of the Middle Ages, the Roman Catholic Church was the one Christian church in western Europe in medieval times. In the early 1500s, the ideas of the Renaissance and the new spirit of questioning caused people to start questioning the practices and teachings of the Catholic Church. Eventually, a group of reformers broke away from the church. Called Protestants, they set up new Christian churches throughout northern Europe. This movement became known as the Reformation. The Reformation began in Germany, far from the base of the Catholic Church in Rome, and then spread to other parts of northern Europe.

What church was the one Christian church in Western Europe during medieval times?

What ideas made people start to question the practices and teachings of the Catholic Church?
(Can you think of what the Renaissance way of thinking [philosophy] was called?)

What were the group of reformers that broke away from the church called?

Where did the Reformation begin?

Follow the link to post on google moderator. [How do leaders create change? What kinds of tactics do they use to gain followers?](#)

Video Notes.

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Class Notes.

Causes of the Reformation

1. Renaissance Ideas and Humanism	
2. Worldliness and Corruption in the Church	
3. The Great Schism	

4. Reformation Leaders	

The Reformation - Martin Luther

Martin Luther	
Luther's Spiritual Journey	
Luther's Controversy	
Ninety-Five Theses	

Primary Source Analysis.

Primary Source

Background: On October 31, 1517, it is said that Martin Luther posted his theses on the church door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, an event considered to be the start of the Reformation. Today, this document is known as the Ninety-Five Theses. At right are three of the theses posted by Luther.

from Disputation of Doctor Martin Luther on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences
By Martin Luther
Translated by Adolph Spahr, L.D. Reed, Henry Eyster Jacobs, et al.

21. Therefore those preachers . . . are in error, who say that by the pope's indulgences a man is freed from every penalty, and saved.

52. The assurance of salvation by letters of pardon is vain, even though . . . the pope himself, were to stake his soul upon it.

68. Yes [indulgences] are in truth the very smallest graces compared with the grace of God and the piety of the Cross.

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION
What groups of people might Luther have angered by posting his theses?

Primary Source

HISTORIC DOCUMENT
Luther's Ninety-Five Theses

In Wittenberg, nailing documents to the church door was a common way of sharing ideas with the community. The Ninety-Five Theses Martin Luther posted, however, created far more debate than other such documents. The items listed here, selected from Luther's list, argued against the sale of indulgences.

Luther thought that only God—not the Pope—could grant forgiveness.

Luther thought buying indulgences was useless.

(5) The pope will not, and cannot, remit [forgive] other punishments than those which he has imposed by his own decree [ruling] or according to the canons [laws].

(21) Therefore, those preachers of indulgences err [make a mistake] who say that, by the Pope's indulgence, a man may be exempt from all punishments, and be saved.

(30) Nobody is sure of having repented [been sorry] sincerely enough; much less can he be sure of having received perfect remission of sins.

(43) Christians should be taught that he who gives to the poor, or lends to a needy man, does better than buying indulgences.

(52) It is a vain and false thing to hope to be saved through indulgences, though the commissary [seller]—nay, the pope himself—was to pledge his own soul therefore.

—Martin Luther from the Ninety-Five Theses

ANALYZING PRIMARY SOURCES
Why did Martin Luther argue against the sale of indulgences?

What groups of people might Luther have angered by posting his thesis?

Why did Martin Luther argue against the sale of indulgences?