

MARTIN LUTHER & THE REFORMATION

Virtual Stations

Today you will use various web and print resources to better understand the Protestant Reformation in Europe in the 16th Century. We will all engage in Station A as a group. You will need to complete four of the five stations and you may go in whatever order you like. Try to keep each station work around 15 minutes.

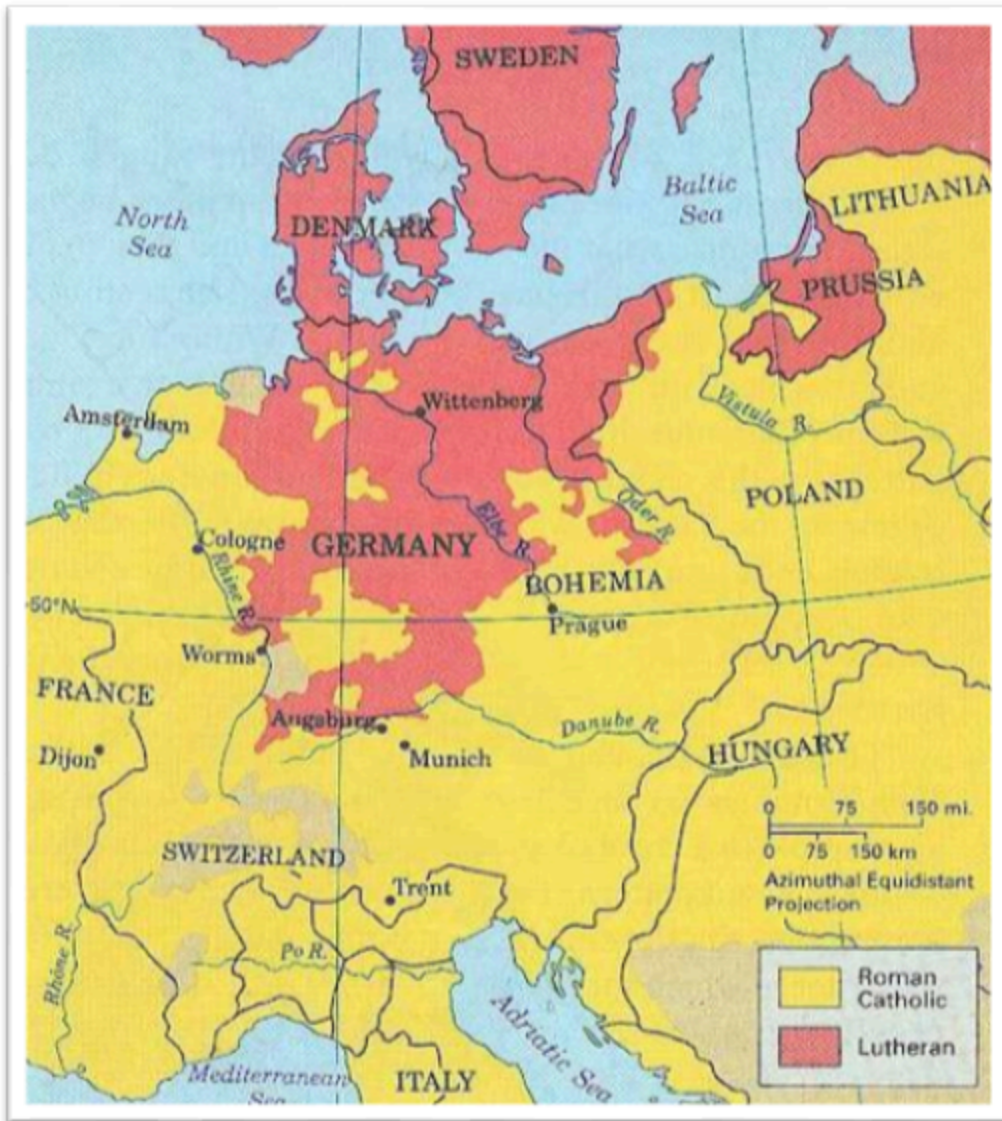
STATION A: Watch the Khan Academy Lecture [‘Introduction to the Protestant Reformation: Setting the Stage’](#) and answer the questions below.

Question	Answer (in note form)
What was the one form of Christianity in Western Europe before the Reformation (1517)?	
Why did Pope Leo X authorized the sale of indulgences?	
How was the selling of indulgences perceived?	
Who was Johann Tetzel and what impact did he have on the perception of the selling of indulgences?	
Who was Martin Luther? What did his 95 Theses argue?	

STATION B: Watch the Khan Academy Lecture [‘Introduction to the Protestant Reformation: Martin Luther’](#) and answer the questions below.

Question	Answer (in note form)
What are the claims that Martin Luther makes in his 95 Theses?	
What type of power did the Pope have in Italy? What impact did this power have on the Reformation movement?	
Describe other reform movements that came before Martin Luther.	
Describe the importance of the printing press.	
What happened to Martin Luther in 1521?	
How did the reading of St. Paul impact Martin Luther?	

STATION C: Review the documents below. Consider what you have learned from the lectures. Complete each primary source analysis with evidence from the Khan Academy lectures and the primary source you are analyzing.



What do you see?	What does it mean?	Why did Martin Luther challenge the Catholic Church?



1530 Depiction of Selling Indulgences

What do you see?	What does it mean?	Why did Martin Luther challenge the Catholic Church?



Collection of Martin Luther's Writings, 1581

What do you see?	What does it mean?	Why did Martin Luther challenge the Catholic Church?

STATION D: Review the documents: ‘The Introduction to the 95 Theses’, and ‘Against Catholicism’. Complete the chart contrasting Luther’s ‘The Introduction to the 95 Theses’, and ‘Against Catholicism’

What are the differences between Luther’s account from 1517 and his account of 1535?

DIFFERENCES IN:	1517	1535
TONE <i>When was this document written? What was Luther’s purpose in writing it?</i>		
PLACE IN LIFE <i>At what point was Martin Luther in his career as religious career?</i>		
DISAGREEMENT WITH THE CHURCH <i>According to this document, why did Luther challenge the Catholic Church?</i>		

Document A: The Introduction to the 95 Theses (Excerpted from Original)

As a young man, Martin Luther became increasingly bothered by the practice of granting sinners indulgences to buy their way out of punishment for their sins. In 1517, Luther decided to write up his criticisms of indulgences and to send them to the Archbishop of Mainz. Luther's criticisms, known as The 95 Theses Against Indulgences, eventually made their way to the Pope, who responded by attacking Luther and eventually excommunicating him from the Catholic Church. The passage below is an excerpt from the letter Luther sent to the Archbishop of Mainz with the 95 Theses.

To the Most Reverend Father in Christ and Most Illustrious Lord, Albrecht of Magdeburg and Mainz, Archbishop and Primate of the Church, Margrave of Brandenburg, etc., his own lord and pastor in Christ, worthy of reverence and fear, and most gracious.

JESUS

The grace of God be with you in all its fulness and power! Spare me, Most Reverend Father in Christ and Most Illustrious Prince, that I, the dregs of humanity, have so much boldness that I have dared to think of a letter to the height of your Sublimity.

... Papal indulgences for the building of St. Peter's are circulating under your most distinguished name, and as regards them, I do not bring accusation against the outcries of the preachers, which I have not heard, so much as I grieve over the wholly false impressions which the people have conceived from them; to wit, -- the unhappy souls believe that if they have purchased letters of indulgence they are sure of their salvation; again, that so soon as they cast their contributions into the money-box, souls fly out of purgatory; furthermore, that these graces [i.e., the graces conferred in the indulgences] are so great that there is no sin too great to be absolved, even, as they say -- though the thing is impossible -- if one had violated the Mother of God; again, that a man is free, through these indulgences, from all penalty and guilt.

Source: *Martin Luther's Letter to the Archbishop of Mainz, 1517.*

Document B: Against Catholicism (Excerpted from Original)

As Luther gained popularity, some of his followers began to write down things that Luther said in private. These notes were known as Luther's Table Talk and were collected and published in the 1560s. The following is presumed to be from Luther's Table Talk in 1535.

The chief cause that I fell out with the pope was this: the pope boasted that he was the head of the Church, and condemned all that would not be under his power and authority; for he said, although Christ be the head of the Church, yet, notwithstanding, there must be a corporal head of the Church upon earth. With this I could have been content, had he but taught the gospel pure and clear, and not introduced human inventions and lies in its stead. Further, he took upon him power, rule, and authority over the Christian Church, and over the Holy Scriptures, the Word of God; no man must presume to expound the Scriptures, but only he, and according to his ridiculous conceits; so that he made himself lord over the Church, proclaiming her at the same time a powerful mother, and empress over the Scriptures, to which we must yield and be obedient; this was not to be endured. They who, against God's Word, boast of the Church's authority, are mere idiots. The pope attributes more power to the Church, which is begotten and born, than to the Word, which has begotten, conceived, and born the Church.

Source: *From Luther's Table Talk, 1535.*

STATION E: Reformation Timeline: Discuss with a partner - What happened from one event to cause the next?

Reformation Timeline

1517	Johann Tetzel travels in Germany preaching on indulgences.
Oct. 31, 1517	Martin Luther sends his <i>95 Theses</i> with a letter to the Archbishop of Mainz (Doc A).
1518	Pope Leo calls on Luther to take back the <i>95 Theses</i> , but Luther refuses.
June 15, 1520	The Pope excommunicates Martin Luther from the Catholic Church.
1521	The Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, declares Luther a criminal and attempts to arrest him.
1521	Frederick, a German prince, pledges his support to Luther and grants him protection at his castle.
1521-1545	Luther's ideas spread throughout Europe and gain more and more support. Over the next twenty years, it becomes clear that an irreversible break has occurred between the Catholic Church and the Protestant movement.

What is the most important event on this timeline and why?

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