

**Slide 1: Written BW or opening discussion**

This is our record of 16<sup>th</sup> century Florence – obviously it isn't entirely accurate. Based on this illustration what do you think about Florence? Explain.

**Slide 2:**

intro vid

**Slide 3:**

Here's the only other record we could find from close to the time period. Analyze it closely and tell us what more we can learn about Florence.

**Slide 4: Sat Map**

Here is a satellite view of Florence today. While it has definitely changed in the last 400 years a remarkable amount of the original buildings remain. We will investigate 3 major buildings across the city to try to determine the role played in them by the Medici. First, we will examine the first major bridge build in the city - the Ponte Vecchio. Next, we will look at the most famous building in the city - the Florence Cathedral. Finally, we'll visit a building we know was related to the Medici - their home, the Palazzo de Medici.

**Slide 5:**

So, here's the bridge. Most think the bridge was first built during Roman times - long before the Medici rose to power. Over time it was added on to the point where we see it today.

**Slide 7:**

Sometime during the middle ages covered shops built all along the sides. Florence, has little open space so this genius idea made more room for shops and people to gather. As you can see, even today, the bridge is a popular spot for both townspeople and visitors.

**Slide 8: Bridge Connector**

When the Medici rose to power they put their own stamp on the bridge. They built this connecting section, shown here, to connect the Florence Town Hall to the Palazzo Pitti – a large estate the Medicis had bought for themselves. They also banned butchers from working in the shops on the bridge due to the awful sights and smells.

**Slide 9:**

When you look at the bridge today – 400 years later, it is lined with fine jewelry shops – no stinking butcher shops to be seen.

**Slide 10:**

Everything today is very high class and very expensive but what shops do you think were there back in the Renaissance? *(discussion only)*

*(Answer: also jewelry and gold shops)*

**Slide 11: Sat Map**

From Ponte Vecchio we'll travel a few blocks north to the Florence Cathedral. Like the bridge, this was actually build before the Medici family rose to power.

**Slide 12:**

It, however, was not finished. Some say they built it purposefully to be "unfinishable" as a proof of their faith that God would one day give them the means to do it. It seems more likely that it was poor planning. In either case, it wasn't done.

**Slide 13:**

Here it is as it looks today. While it has been slightly repaired and restored the cathedral today is pretty much the same as it was then. What makes it so special in your opinion?

**Slide 14: Cathedral front**

You decide to get a closer look. You join a large crowd of visitors on the streets of Florence. After winding through many small streets lined with buildings you find yourself in the central square with the cathedral towering over you. From this angle you can see a great deal more of the detail that went into the building. How would you feel looking up at the Cathedral from this spot? *(discussion only)*

**Slide 15:**

You are in awe of the amazing structure so you step even closer to get a better look. What do you notice now that you didn't notice before? *(discussion only)*

*(paintings in the windows for sure, maybe the statues)*

**Slide 16: Cathedral Interior**

You step inside the Cathedral and find yourself just as amazed. Chairs are set up facing the pulpit which means this must still be used as a church. The ceiling is very high and is beautifully arched.

**Slide 17:**

Moving further in you see the pulpit up close and it too looks like a work of art. This would be the main focal point of the church during a service. The priest would stand here to preach and be lit up by the large stained glass windows behind him. It must be an incredible sight.

**Slide 18:**

When you look up directly above the pulpit you see the glorious dome of the cathedral from the inside. There is no doubt this part of the cathedral exists thanks to the Medici. There is a staircase that winds its way up to the dome. You climb up it a bit to get a closer look.

**Slide 19:**

Building the dome itself was not the only work on the cathedral by the Medici. Nearly 100 years after the dome was built a later Medici decided it should be painted. Imagine the difficulty of painting on a curved surface so many feet in the air!

**Slide 20:**

Take a moment to describe the interior of this great building.

**Slide 21:**

Video Clip – Building the Dome (4:30 mins)

**Slide 22: Sat Map**

One block North of the Cathedral is the main home of the Medici Family – the Palazzo de Medici.

**Slide 23:**

Looking at it from our satellite it really doesn't stand out at all. It seems to look like all the other buildings in the town. With all we've heard about the Medici's wealth this is hard to explain. Maybe the stories aren't quite true?

**Slide 24:**

Here is the Palazzo close up. Compare it to the bridge and Cathedral we saw before.

**Slide 25:**

You get very close to see the detail of the building, surely there must be some amazing art or architecture, right? All you see around the building are these iron thingies. They are all around the building right at about the height of an average man. What could they be for?

**Slide 27:**

show off clip (2 mins)

**Slide 28: Palazzo Interior**

Stepping inside the building things look very different. Everything sparkles with gold and perfectly carved marble. Fantastic, and surprisingly large, paintings line the walls and even the ceilings like in this room – the great hall.

**Slide 29:**

Looking up you see an incredible scene. For the first time you notice the exquisite carvings that border the ceiling. The painting pops with color and detail. You squint your eyes to get a closer look.

**Slide 30:**

The more you look the more you realize this painting is kind of uh... odd. What exactly is going on here?

**Slide 31:**

After touring more of the Palazzo you really begin to feel how different the interior is compared to the exterior. So, how is it different? <<QUESTION ALERT>>

**Slide 32:**

You pass through the hall and find yourself in an outdoor courtyard. It too is very ornate. Old Roman-style pillars surround the patio and a huge statue draws you in further.

**Slide 33:**

From the opposite side looking back you notice even more carefully designed borders – and there's that Medici crest again! Behind you is a balcony that overlooks a garden.

**Slide 34:**

Being back outside you see a return to the simple walls that you saw originally on the exterior. This garden though is far from simple. You see 4 beautifully statues and a large fountain. You climb down for a closer look.

**Slide 35:**

Oops, five statues I guess. You couldn't see the one along the wall as it was right under you. Standing here you can just imagine the great artists like Michelangelo strolling through with one of the Medicis 500 years ago. The simple fountain bubbles softly and you feel a great sense of peace and wonder.

**Slide 36:**

Stepping into the garden you get a great look at one of the statues. You are surprised to see at this close distance how cracked it is. I guess it makes sense for a 500 year old statue. Still, the design is incredible. You can see individual strands of hair and perfect folds in his clothing. It is hard to imagine that once this was just a giant rock!

**Slide 37:**

Describe the garden of the Palazzo de Medici.

**Slide 38:**

Closing vid (power of Medici, 3 mins)

**Slide 39:**

Conclusion

Use evidence from today's investigation to answer the following in a complete paragraph:

**How did the Medici use their wealth to improve Florence and gain power?**