

The Renaissance – why it changed the world



The Renaissance is a period of time when culture, politics, science and intelligence exploded across Europe between the 14th and 17th centuries. This time in history represents perhaps the most profoundly important period in human development since the fall of Ancient Rome.

The Renaissance spread across Europe, beginning in Florence in the 14th century. Ideas were changing and culture was shifting.

Amazing ideas like; **“all men are created equal”** or **“the earth is round”** or that **“gravity is what keeps us on the ground”** or that **“the power of a government should be in the hands of the people, not in the hands of the few”** or that people can **“choose the god they pray too.”**

This boom in thinking was met with a boom in exploration, trade and even warfare.

The Renaissance changed the world in just about every way one could think of.

It had a snowball effect: each new intellectual finding paved the way for further human progress.

Italy in the 14th century was the perfect place for a cultural revolution. The Black Death had wiped out 125 million people in Europe – people had a newfound respect for life. A life that could change and evolve.

Italy was flooded with ‘lost’ classics from the ancient world, and artists such as Leonardo da Vinci, Botticelli, Michelangelo, Raphael and Donatello began to create art around these ‘lost’ classics. They created extraordinary art that is still appreciated today.

As artists grew bold, so too did scientists. Scientists engaged in a revolution of their own. Copernicus and Galileo learned how to understand our planet's place in the cosmos. They proved that the Earth was round and revolved around the Sun.

Never before in history had there been such a coming together of art, science, philosophy and discovery.

Renaissance men had a thirst for discovering the new. Columbus discovered America, Ferdinand Magellan led an expedition to do the first trip around the globe.

As the world shrank in size, new continents were found, new lands colonised, new cultures discovered, new beliefs were stumbled upon, and these understandings added to a firestorm of thinking that raged across Europe.

With the invention of a printing press, these radical new ideas became accessible to the masses.

Radical ideas about science, art, math, philosophy, geography, history, politics and religion became, for the first time in human history, truly democratic. Available to all men and women, no matter how rich or how poor.

The seeds of the modern world were sown and grown in the Renaissance.

From discovering the solar system, to the beauty of Michelangelo's David, to the perfection of Leonardo's Mona Lisa, from the genius of Shakespeare to the daring courage of Luther. These breathtaking advances in thinking has allowed man to achieve new heights in understanding the world.

The Renaissance changed the world. You might even say it created the world as we know it today.