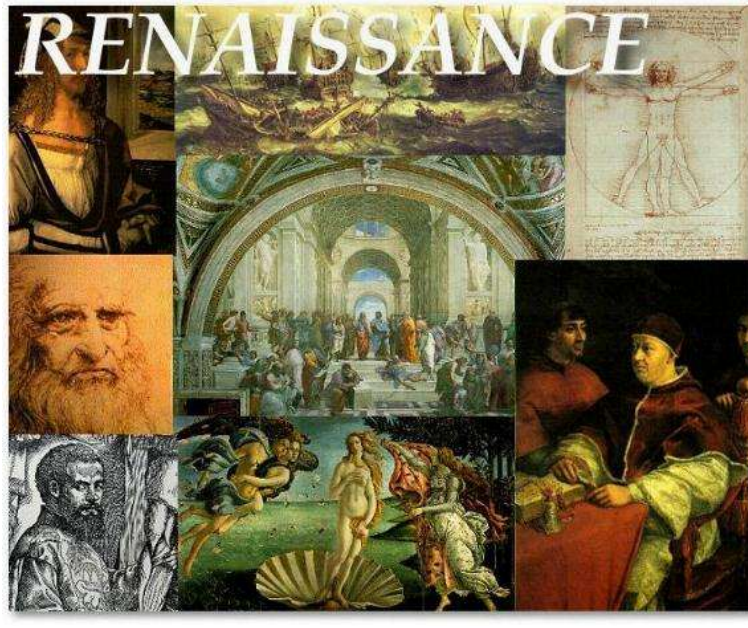


# The Renaissance



[http://mrblacksarmy.weebly.com/uploads/1/2/4/0/12405306/9444169\\_orig.jpg](http://mrblacksarmy.weebly.com/uploads/1/2/4/0/12405306/9444169_orig.jpg)

## Background

During the Middle Ages, learning and education were not important. Survival and the Church were the focus of daily life. However, after the Crusades, trade and the exchanging of ideas grew as knights returned from the Holy Land. These new goods and ideas sparked a rebirth and interest in learning and the arts.

## Italian City-States

The **Renaissance**, a French word for “rebirth,” began on the Italian Peninsula. Its location is close to Western Europe, the Byzantine Empire, the Muslim world, and gave them access to the Mediterranean Sea. This helped the Italian city-states of **Florence**, **Milan**, **Genoa**, and **Venice** to become centers of trade and banking during this time. These four city-states gained wealth and were independent of each other, as seen in the map.

All the city-states are important, but Florence is considered to be the “birthplace” of the Renaissance.



<http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-4iy19SEvY3Q/U01jF2tMpxI/AAAAAAAAACYw/x25dAje-ztE/s1600/Renaissance+Map.jpg>

**Question: What is meant by the word “birthplace?”**

### **Patronage of the Medici Family**

Banking and trade made several families in the Italian city-states wealthy. The **Medici** family was one of them. The Medicis used their wealth to support arts and learning in Florence. This is called **patronage**. They supported great works of art to be produced in Florence by some of the greatest figures of the Renaissance such as **Michelangelo**, **Boticelli**, and **Machiavelli**.



Lorenzo Medici wanted to make Florence the most beautiful city in the entire world.

[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/8f/Portrait\\_of\\_Lorenzo\\_di\\_Medici.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/8f/Portrait_of_Lorenzo_di_Medici.jpg)



**The Duomo** in Florence (pictured) reflects a renewed interest during the Renaissance in classical architecture of the Greeks and Romans.

<http://images.wisegeek.com/florence-italy.jpg>



This is the Vatican, home of the Pope, located in Rome. Again, the influence of the Greeks and the Romans is reflected in the architecture.

<http://www.myitaliangetaway.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/St-Peters-Basilica1.jpg>

**Question: What features of Greek and Roman architecture do you see in the Vatican?**

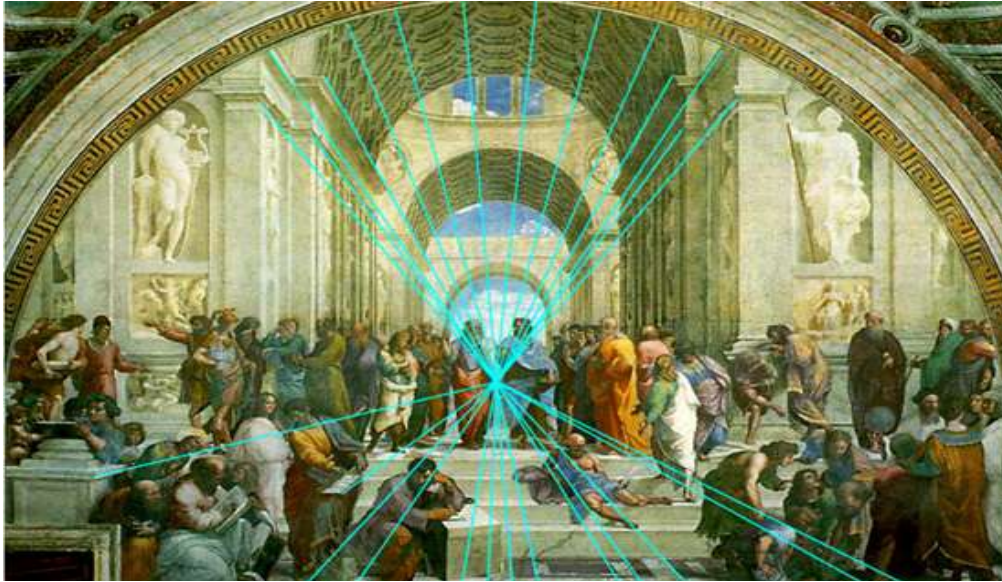
### **A New Focus in Art**

There was a renewed interest in the ideas of ancient Greece and Rome, due to philosophers and teachers from Byzantine Empire migrating into Italy. Many of the artists, writers, and thinkers built upon the ideas of the classical world. They wanted to improve or expand on those ideas and achievements. They combined the **classical** influence with **humanism**. Humanism emphasized the individual and daily life. Humanism also stressed individual potential and achievement. Humanism was expressed in Renaissance art, architecture, science, religion, and philosophy.

Renaissance painting glorified religious themes using realistically drawn human forms and new techniques of shading and **perspective**. This style of realism influenced sculpting as well with an emphasis on anatomical correctness, and subjects placed in more realistic poses. For example, the body of a sculpture would have the head and the shoulders face one direction while the hips or legs would go a different direction.

**Question: Why are subjects like history and philosophy considered humanistic topics?**

Renaissance artists' appreciation for the ancient Greeks and Romans can be seen in the themes.



This is the "School of Athens" by Raphael. The red lines have been added to show you the perspective in this painting. Notice the influence of the Greeks and Romans in the theme of this painting.

<https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/736x/3d/60/23/3d60238fc4ba78ae5856ec65e825bad1.jpg>

Strong religious beliefs of the Middle Ages still had an impact during the Renaissance.



This sculpture was created by Michelangelo. It is of David from the biblical story of David and Goliath. It is a perfect example of the artistic technique known as contrapposto, and is religious in nature. Notice that the statue is anatomically correct, and that the head and shoulders face a different direction than the hips and legs.

**Question: How is this statue similar to one's in ancient Greece and Rome? How is it different?**

[https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/dWNQvz12ZTap\\_6zB3VTa\\_gpO6wViY5x\\_ESBoZE7g9mGL8VJXwaR0RAR43nq1Qw9wQExQYA=s85](https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/dWNQvz12ZTap_6zB3VTa_gpO6wViY5x_ESBoZE7g9mGL8VJXwaR0RAR43nq1Qw9wQExQYA=s85)



Above are two examples of religious paintings depicting the angel talking to Mary, Jesus' mother. Notice how more lifelike the second painting is and the difference in techniques.

<http://professorjohnston.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Hail-Mary-Image.jpg>

[https://encrypted-tbn3.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcQskL8L9TavnXd\\_QRoidtisoJ8q5siVnmXNGZ11vaaW08xhFkrG](https://encrypted-tbn3.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcQskL8L9TavnXd_QRoidtisoJ8q5siVnmXNGZ11vaaW08xhFkrG)

## Key Figures in Renaissance Art and Literature

### Michelangelo

One multi-talented icon of the Renaissance was **Michelangelo**. He sculpted **David** (seen previously in this document) and **The Pieta**. Michelangelo's works were so well-respected and revered, the Pope hired him to paint the ceiling of the **Sistine Chapel** in **St. Peter's Cathedral**.



The Pieta

[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/6c/Michelangelo's\\_Pieta\\_5450\\_cut\\_out\\_black.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/6c/Michelangelo's_Pieta_5450_cut_out_black.jpg)



The Sistine Chapel

<http://www.lib-art.com/imgpainting/2/5/14052-interior-of-the-sistine-chapel-michelangelo-buonarroti.jpg>

**Question: What influences of Greeks and Romans do you see in the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel? What religious themes do you see?**

Leonardo da Vinci

**Leonardo da Vinci** is considered to be the classic example of a “**Renaissance Man**.” He is called this because he was a painter, sculptor, architect, city planner, inventor, and mathematician. Da Vinci invented even an early version of a tank and helicopter! Famous paintings by da Vinci include ***The Last Supper***, ***The Mona Lisa***, and numerous sketches.



The Last Supper

<http://www.templechryses.org/da-vinci.html>



*The Mona Lisa*

[http://www.pbs.org/treasuresoftheworld/mona\\_lisa/images/mona\\_page\\_pix/mona\\_large.jpg](http://www.pbs.org/treasuresoftheworld/mona_lisa/images/mona_page_pix/mona_large.jpg)

**Trivia Fact!** Leonardo da Vinci often didn't finish his projects. He was a big procrastinator!

### Sandro Botticelli

Sandro Botticelli was another painter from Florence. He is famous for the painting *The Birth of Venus*, seen below. Botticelli used Greek, Roman, and Christian themes in his artwork.



*The Birth of Venus*

[http://uploads5.wikiart.org/images/sandro-botticelli/the-birth-of-venus-1485\(1\).jpg](http://uploads5.wikiart.org/images/sandro-botticelli/the-birth-of-venus-1485(1).jpg)

### Machiavelli



Besides art, the Renaissance was impacted by political writings. A man named **Niccolo Machiavelli** wrote a book called ***The Prince***. He offered advice to rulers on how to stay in power. His advice often suggested doing whatever it took to stay in power, even causing fear in the subjects. In *The Prince*, Machiavelli said, "It is better to be feared than to be loved, if you cannot be both."

<https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/dONlhZ8qzu2WabqUk0XGOvfDrIS3iFub97tjqiaMOVYJJN29SFgJKrYNLrzWWCr8YIZqu=s101>

## Johannes Gutenberg



<http://ecx.images-amazon.com/images/I/61H1FSKP88L.jpg>

Ideas of the Renaissance spread quickly thanks to a German inventor named **Johannes Gutenberg**. As you learned previously, books had to be copied by hand by monks. This took a very long time, and made books very expensive and scarce. Gutenberg created **a printing press with a movable type**. Books could be copied much more quickly. Most of the first books printed were copies of *The Bible* and other religious writings. Now a person could read *The Bible* in his/her own language.

**Question: Predict how the printing press will change Europe.**

## Key Figures in Renaissance Science

During the Renaissance, this new way of thinking sparked a renewal in science as well. Ideas in astronomy, **anatomy**, medicine, and physics advanced to new levels. However, these sciences came into conflict with accepted teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Scientists such as **Johannes Kepler**, **Nicolas Copernicus**, and **Sir Isaac Newton** all discovered scientific laws and theories that directly challenged traditional Church beliefs. These men provided the basis for modern science.



**Galileo discusses his discoveries with the Church**

<http://radiofreethinker.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/galileo-church-pope-cartoon.jpg>