1.1 The Renaissance: a rebirth or revival of art and learning (1300-1600)

After suffering through wars, destruction, and the plague of the Middle Ages, people wanted to celebrate life and the human spirit. This made them question the way things were done by authorities in art, literature, religion, government, and science.

Italy

- Educated people in Italy wanted to <u>bring back</u> to life the <u>culture of classical Greece and Rome</u>
- Eventually, the Renaissance spread from Italy into the rest of Europe
- <u>Italy</u> had <u>three advantages</u> that allowed the Renaissance <u>to take hold</u>

City States

- **Overseas trade**, helped out by migrations of people going on crusades and returning, led to the formation of large city-states in Northern Italy

- **Large towns** are a natural meeting place where people can exchange goods and ideas— allowing an intellectual revolution

- The **bubonic plague** killed so many people that labors could demand better wages and a better standard of living

- **Merchants** started to look at other interests (art, literature, politics)

Merchants and the Medici

- Wealthy merchant classes developed in each city-state
- Smaller city states had a higher number of <u>wealthy merchants</u> who <u>dominated politics</u>
- Merchants had to use their intelligence to succeed so they developed a <u>belief in individual achievement</u> (nobles earned their position in society)
- Florence had a <u>powerful banking family</u>, the Medici's) with connections to other city-states
- Medici family <u>influenced art and politics</u> for several generations in Florence (Cosimo and Lorenzo)
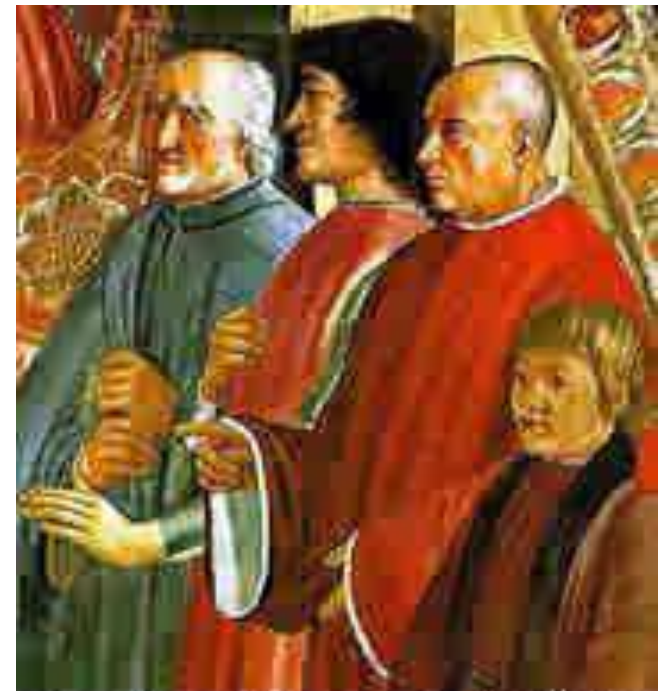
Classical Cultures

- Renaissance artists disliked medieval art and literature—they questioned why they had to paint and write the same old way

- <u>Return to learning of Greeks and Romans</u>
  - Inspired by Roman ruins
  - Scholars found and <u>studied ancient manuscripts</u> from monasteries
  - Christian <u>scholars</u> from Eastern Roman Empire fled to Italy to escape Muslim Turks & <u>brought</u> more <u>manuscripts</u>
  - All this encourage writers and artists to experiment with new ideas

Classical and Worldly Values

- **Humanism**—study of ancient manuscripts <u>focused on human potential and achievement.</u> This encouraged scholars and artists to imitate classical culture and studies
- **Worldly pleasures**—people start to enjoy life's material goods (<u>secular</u>) such as music, art, fine food and clothing
- **Patrons of the arts**—<u>Church</u> leaders and wealthy Renaissance <u>merchants</u> spent huge amounts of money beautifying their community by <u>pay</u>ing <u>artists to create</u> works of <u>art</u>—paintings and sculptures
- **Renaissance Men and Women**—<u>educated, patron of arts, develop total human potential</u>

Renaissance Revolutionizes Art

- Support by wealthy patrons allows artists to develop <u>new techniques</u>
  - <u>Realism</u>: a style copied from classical models
    - <u>Classical style</u>—use of columns, etc.
    - <u>Perspective</u>: show 3 D on flat surface
    - <u>Religion</u>—still shown but <u>less dominating</u> in painting and sculpture
    - The Individual—nobles & prominent people: also personality and emotion
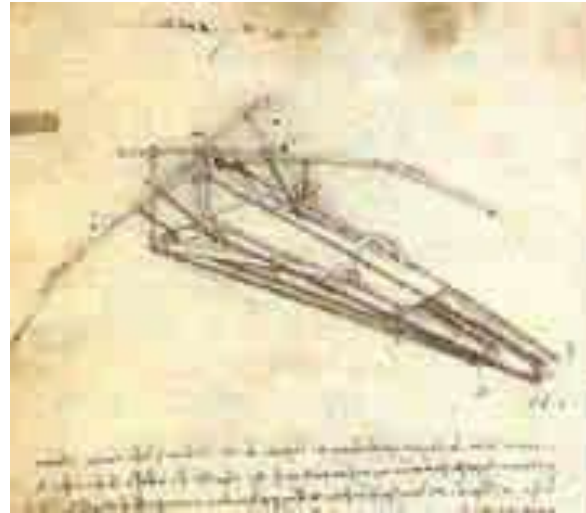   - <u>Beauty</u>—use of details that add beauty

Leonardo Da Vinci

Painter
Sculptor
Inventor
Engineer
Scientist

1452-1519

Michelangelo Buonarroti

- Painter
- Sculptor
- Architect
- Engineer
- Poet
- 1475-1564

David

St. Peter's Basilica

The Pieta

Painting on the Sistine Chapel

Donatello

- Artist
- <u>Sculptor</u> in wood, marble, and bronze
  - Famous for <u>small reliefs</u> cut into sculptures that made them look <u>more real</u>
  - 1386-1466

Raphael

Painter and Architect

Very detailed, perfected paintings.

1483-1520

Pope Julius II

Francesco Maria della Rovere

School of Athens

Renaissance Women

- Sofonisba Anguissola
- First woman artist to gain international attention
- 1532-1625

- Artemisia Gentileschi
- Trained with father, painted strong, heroic women. 1593-1652

Renaissance Changes <u>Literature</u>

- <u>Vernacular</u>—<u>use of native and everyday language instead of Latin</u>
- <u>Self-expression</u>—to <u>portray individual character</u> of subjects
- <u>Advice to leaders</u>
- Modern writers use these trends

Francesco Petrarch

- Father of Renaissance humanists. 1304-1374
- Wrote sonnets (14 line poems)
- Wrote letters to important men of the time

Giovanni Boccaccio
1313-1375

- Expressed tragic and comic views of life
- <u>Used humor</u> to show individuality and folly
- Wrote <u>Decameron</u>, about people trying to <u>escape the plague</u>

Niccolo Machiavelli
1469-1527

- Historian and political thinker
- Wrote <u>The Prince</u>, a guide book for rulers (1513)
- "A ruler must be strong as a lion and shrewd as a fox."
- **<u>Not concerned with morality but politically effective</u>**
- Trickery, deceit, and lies are OK if it helps a ruler keep his power

Vittoria Colonna

- Writer
- Poet
- Exchanged letters with Michelangelo
- 1490-1547

Ch. 1.2 <u>Northern Renaissance</u>

- As plague and Hundred Year's War ends, population rises in Europe and trade flourishes

- <u>Ideas of Renaissance carried into Europe with travelers and traders</u>

- European <u>artists</u> visit Italy and take ideas back to their homeland

- Northern Europeans <u>mix ideas</u> from Italy with their own to create its own character

Artists: German Painters

Albrecht Durer 1471-1528

- Woodcuts and Engravings
- Religious subjects
- Classical Myths
- Realistic Landscapes

1512
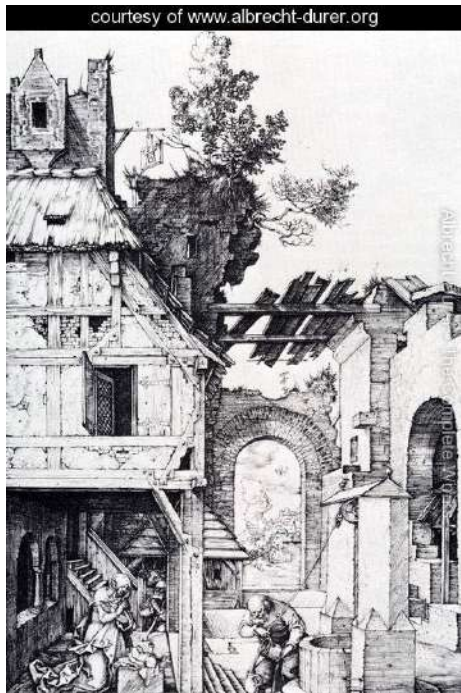
Flemish Painters

Jan van Eyck 1395-1441

– Oil based paints

– Layering techniques

– Realistic details

Pieter Bruegel the Elder

- <u>Realistic</u> details
- <u>Individuals</u>
- Large numbers of people
- Everyday <u>peasant life</u>
- <u>Rich colors</u>

- 1525-1569

Northern European Writers

- Critical of the Roman Catholic Church

- Developed movement known as **Christian Humanism -** Criticized Christian church, wanted people to live a Christian life p48.

- Wanted education for men and women

Christian Humanists

Desiderius <u>Erasmus</u> 1466-1536

Wrote <u>"Praise of the Folly"</u> <u>1509</u>

- <u>Critical</u> of merchants, fools, and priests

- Believed in <u>Christianity of the heart</u>

- Thought to <u>improve</u>, people <u>need</u>ed to <u>read</u> the <u>Bible</u>

Thomas Moore 1478-1535

- Wrote <u>Utopia</u>, to show a <u>better type of society</u> (1516) pg 48

- Imaginary land with <u>no greed</u>, <u>no</u> need for <u>money</u>

- Translated into many languages

William Shakespeare 1564-1616

- <u>Playwright</u>
- Poet
- Dramatist
- <u>Revealed humanity through characters</u> in his play
- Showed folly and flaws
- Wrote MacBeth, Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, etc. p49

Printing Press Spreads Ideas

- <u>Gutenberg invents</u> movable type <u>printing press circa 1440</u>
- <u>Books</u> become <u>cheaper</u> and more <u>numerous</u>
- <u>Literacy spreads</u>
- Christian bible, religious books, then travel and medical books
- Maps and charts lead to new discoveries
- Legal decisions make laws clear to everyone
- People start to question religious and political authorities p50

The Legacy of the Renaissance

- Great artistic and social change
- Break point from Medieval period
- Break point from focus on Church
- Belief in dignity of individual
- Printing press transforms communication and exchange of ideas

Changes in the Arts

- Influences from Ancient Greece and Rome (classical)
- Paintings and sculptures focused on individuals, nature, realism, lifelike
- Secular works as well as religious
- Writers use vernacular to express ideas
- Praise for individual achievement

Changes in Society

- Printing press makes information more available and inexpensive
- Greater availability of books encourages learning and literacy
- News of discovery and invention led to even more discovery in other fields
- Laws were published helping people understand their **rights**
- **Christian humanism** led to reforms and thoughts of how life should be led
- Questioning of how to do things led to questions and challenges about government and religious authority