

The European Renaissance

The **who**, **what**, **where**, **when**, **why**
and **how** of this spectacular
cultural event in world history

When:

■ 1350s-1500s



Where and Why:

- The Renaissance began in **Italy in the mid 1300s** and then spread to the rest of Europe and reached its height in the 1500s
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WHY

- It began in Italy for a couple of reasons
 - Italy was the center of the former Roman Empire; architectural remains, antique statues, coins and inscriptions were all visual reminders of the “glory that was Rome.”
 - Italy’s cities survived the Middle Ages; city-states like Milan, Venice, Genoa, Florence, and Rome grew into prosperous areas of trade and manufacturing
 - a wealthy and powerful merchant class in these city-states stressed education and individual achievement and spent lavishly to support the arts; one such family was the **Medici family** became generous patrons of the arts ...

Impact of the Crusades and impact of Mongols = Commercial Revolution!!

What:

- The Renaissance was a time of creativity and change in many areas; political, social, economics and cultural.
- The Renaissance changed the way people looked at themselves and the world.
- Rebirth of classical learning of Greco-Roman culture

How:

- HUMANISM (an idea of the Greeks)- based on the study of classical culture, humanism focused on worldly subjects rather than religious issues that occupied medieval thinkers
- Embraced the capabilities of the individual; a person of the Renaissance had talent in many fields
- Petrarch was an early Renaissance humanist who assembled a library of Greek and Roman manuscripts

Even more HOW:

- The Renaissance provoked a questioning spirit of the world
- A rebirth of past ideas allowed people to be very creative
- Although the Renaissance is most associated with culture, it gave way to new technologies such as the printing press of Gutenberg = launched a literary revolution, improved navigation technology, new political ideas and a questioning of faith

- Therefore, what future history did it impact?
- Protestant Reformation, Scientific Revolution, Age of Exploration, Enlightenment



Literary Humanists

- Dante Alighieri- *The Divine Comedy*
- describes Dante's travels through Hell, Purgatory, and Heaven; but at a deeper level, it represents *allegorically*, the soul's journey towards God
- Geoffrey Chaucer- *Canterbury Tales*
- is a collection of over 20 stories written in English by at the end of the 14th century, during the time of the Hundred Years' War.



Dante, shown holding a copy of the *Divine Comedy*, next to the entrance to Hell, the seven terraces of Mount Purgatory and the city of Florence, with the spheres of Heaven above, in Michelangelo's fresco

Who:

■ ITALIAN RENAISSANCE

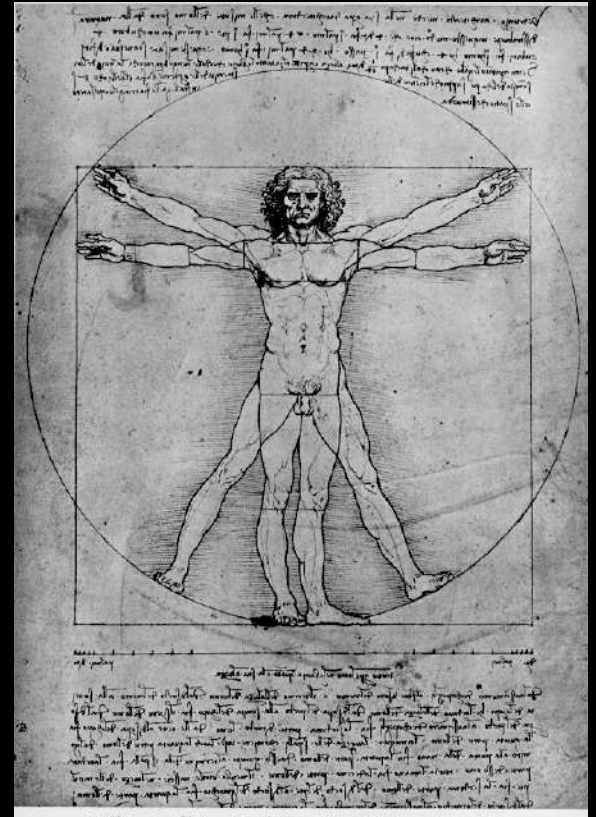


- Leonardo da Vinci
- Michelangelo
- Machiavelli

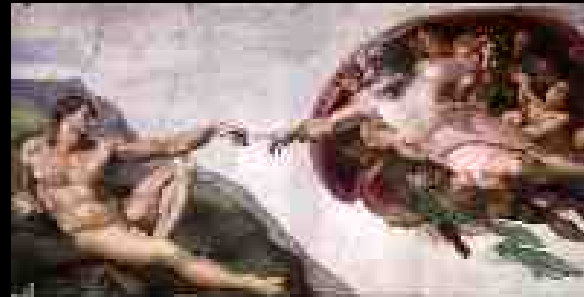
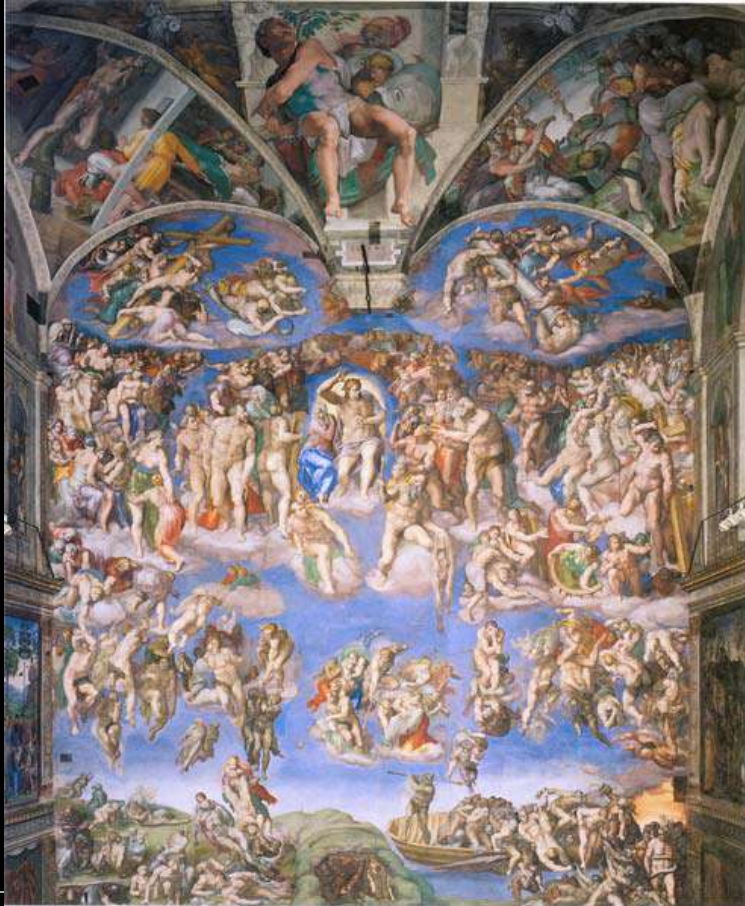
■ NORTHERN RENAISSANCE

- Erasmus
- Shakespeare
- Jan Van Eyck

Da Vinci



Michelangelo



Machiavelli



As to exercise the mind, the prince ought to read history and study the actions of eminent men, see how they acted in warfare, examine the causes of their victories and defeats in order to imitate the former and avoid the latter

In the actions of men, and especially of Princes, from which there is no appeal, ***the end justifies the means***

There is no avoiding war; it can only be postponed to the advantage of others

“It is better to be feared than loved, if you cannot be both.”

Shakespeare



2B2 mit William Shakespeare

How did Renaissance Art Compare to Medieval Artwork?

Medieval Art



Renaissance Art

