

Renaissance and Reformation

*The Emergence of the First
Global Age (1450–1750)*



The Renaissance

The Reformation

Protestantism spreads

Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Religion and thought



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

Icons: For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will have learned about the Reformation, and be able to answer the following key questions:

- What was the Reformation and how did it begin?
- What were the underlying causes of the Reformation?
- How did the Catholic Church respond to the Reformation?





During the Middle Ages, the Catholic Church exerted enormous power in Europe.

By the time of the Renaissance, many Church officials were selling **indulgences**, or pardons for sins. Instead of doing penance, people could pay for their sins to be forgiven.



During the 14th and 15th centuries, Church officials grew increasingly corrupt. They amassed great wealth and often had wives and mistresses, which was against Church law.

Why do you think so few people spoke out against these corruptions?



Corruption in the Catholic Church led many to call for reform. Reformers believed that the pope should have no worldly power, and that the Bible should be the ultimate authority on religious matters.

The development of the printing press allowed these ideas to spread. Watch this animation to learn how a young priest named **Martin Luther** lit the spark that would begin the **Reformation**.

Press **start** to begin.

start



How do new ideas spread today?



Martin Luther was not the first reformer to criticize the Church. Why do you think his actions started the Reformation? Consider the social, economic, political and religious realities of Luther's time. Then drag each statement into the correct box.

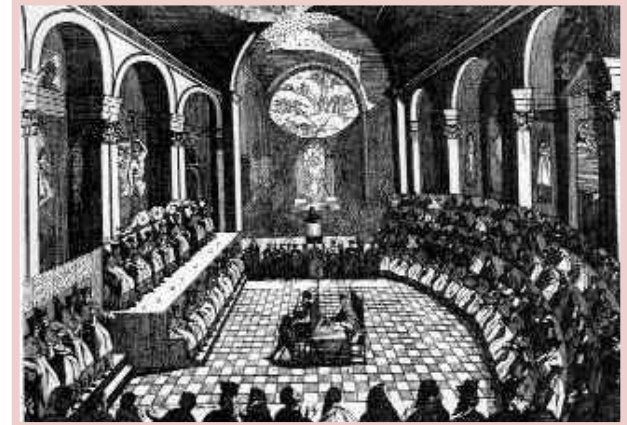
Press **start** to begin.

start





Pope Paul III created a council of cardinals and bishops known as the **Council of Trent**. The Council met in three major sessions between 1545 and 1563.



The Council's goal was to stop the spread of Protestantism by defining Church law and disproving Protestant beliefs. It was part of the **Catholic Reformation** – a movement to reform and unify the Church to preserve its power.

The Council declared that only the Church's interpretation of the Bible was legitimate and that one needed faith *and* good works to obtain salvation. It also banned the sale of indulgences for money.



In 1521, a Catholic nobleman called **Ignatius Loyola** was injured in battle. During his recovery, he wrote a book advising individuals on morality and prayer.

In 1540, Pope Paul III recognized Loyola's Society of Jesus, commonly known as the **Jesuits**. The Jesuits founded many schools and universities that combined humanist learning with Catholic theology.

In contrast with this scholarly approach, Pope Paul IV issued the **Index of Forbidden Books** (1559), a list of texts condemned by the Church as heretical. As a result, tens of thousands of banned books were burned across Europe.

Do you think banning books is an effective way to keep an idea from spreading?