

# Europe

## *Renaissance and Reformation*



Introduction to the  
Middle Ages

Feudal Society in the  
Middle Ages

**Renaissance and Reformation**

European Expansion

## Thematic Icons



Economics



Geography



Historical concepts



Government

## Icons



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page

For more instructions, see the *User Guide*.





# Timeline





# What was the Renaissance?



The **Renaissance** (“rebirth”) was a philosophical and artistic movement, which started in Italy during the fourteenth century.

It marked the end of the Middle Ages and the start of the transition into the Modern Age. This period is sometimes referred to as the Early Modern Era.

The period saw a number of social, cultural and scientific changes.



Why do you think the Renaissance began in Italy?





# Where is Italy?





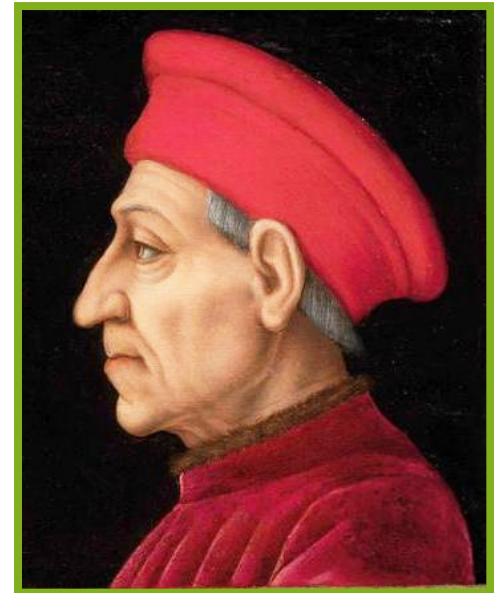
# The Renaissance in Italy



When the Renaissance began, Italy was made up of a number of independent **city-states**. These were ruled by a city and had their own government.

The growth of trade and the development of banks meant that cities could become wealthy. Rich individuals sponsored artists and writers, and new ideas developed.

In 1434, Cosimo de Medici became ruler of Florence. The Medici family was very rich and many members of the family used their money to **patronize** (support) the arts. The family also used their money to improve education.



Italian scholars studied classical history, literature, philosophy and art, and aimed to revive Ancient Greek and Roman culture.

These scholars were called **humanists**. They emphasized human achievement and potential. Today, we refer to these subjects as the humanities.

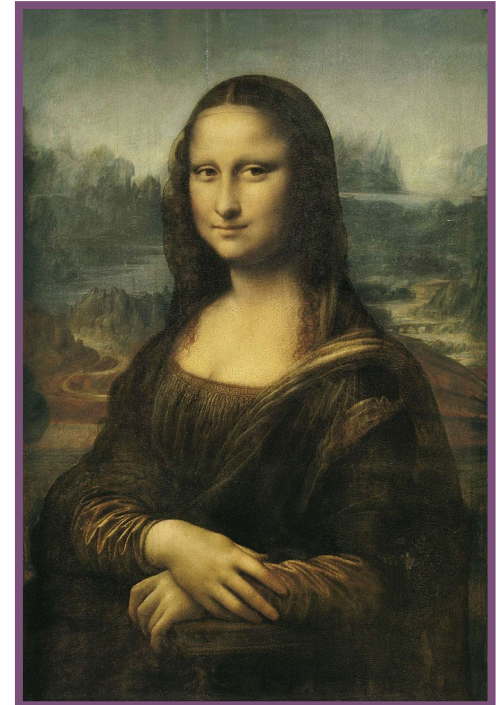
Francesco **Petrarch** (1304–1374) is thought to be one of the first humanists and is sometimes called the “Father of humanism.”





Renaissance ideas were expressed through art. This led to some changes in style and technique.

- Although Renaissance artists continued the medieval practice of creating religious works, they also began to depict other subjects, including figures from Greek and Roman mythology.
- Artists began to portray figures more realistically. This is called **realism**.
- New techniques, including balance, perspective and shadow, were used.



How does the *Mona Lisa* show these techniques?



Two of the most well-known Renaissance artists are **Leonardo da Vinci** and **Michelangelo Buonarroti**.

Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519) was an artist, scientist and inventor. One of his most famous works is the *Mona Lisa*. It is praised for how realistic and lifelike it is.

Michelangelo (1475–1564) was an artist, architect and poet. He painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican. His statue of *David* is inspired by Greek and Roman statues.



Medieval texts were mainly written in Latin and focused on religious issues because they were generally written and copied by monks. During the Renaissance, writers began to focus more on **secular** and humanist ideas, and often used the **vernacular** (mother tongue, such as French in France).

Petrarch (1304–1374) used humanist and classical ideals within his poems. His poetry, especially *Il Canzoniere* about the mysterious Laura, is well known, and his lyrical style influenced poets for hundred of years.

**Machiavelli** (1469–1525) wrote *The Prince*, a guidebook for leaders. It was based on his own experience and argued that it was better for a leader to be feared than loved.

Do you agree?



# The Renaissance beyond Italy



In the 1450s, Renaissance ideas began to spread to the rest of Europe as part of the **Northern Renaissance**.

Ideas were spread by:

- the patronage of Italian artists by wealthy middle classes and monarchies
- contact between European states through trade, travel and university study
- the development of the **printing press** using moveable type by Johannes Gutenberg in around 1440. Books could be printed and distributed on a larger scale and more quickly.



How are ideas shared today?

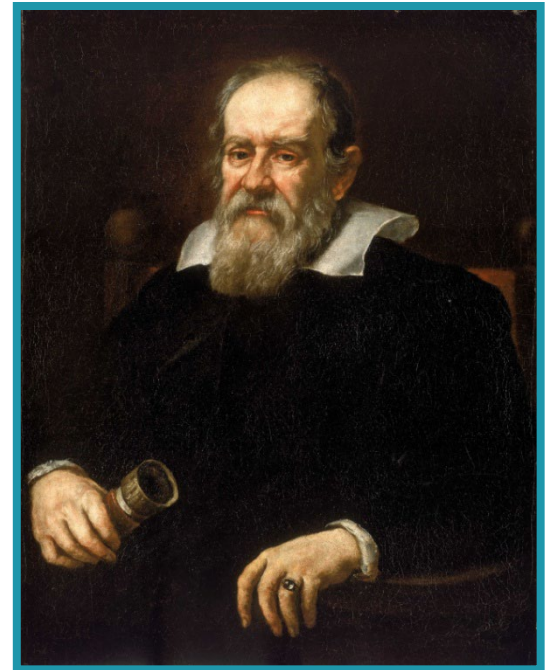
# The Northern Renaissance





Humanism encouraged thinkers to study the natural world. This led to new developments in science during a period known as the **Scientific Revolution** (around 1543–1700). Three key scientists were:

- **Copernicus**, who claimed that the planets orbit the sun
- **Galileo**, who improved the telescope and used it to study astronomy
- **Sir Isaac Newton**, who discovered the law of gravity and the laws of motion.



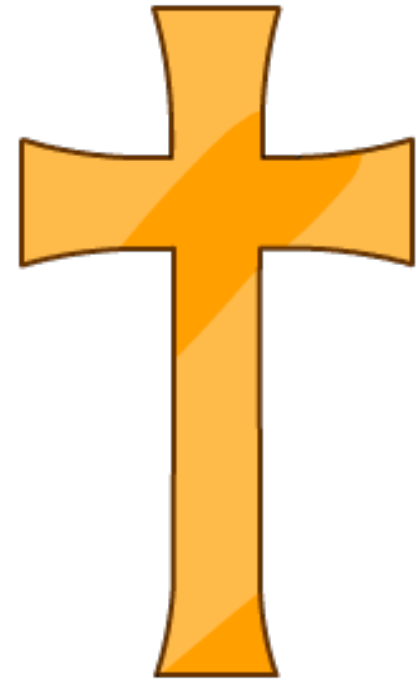
How important are they to modern science?



The **Reformation** was a sixteenth-century movement to reform the Catholic Church. The Church was extremely powerful during the Middle Ages. However, it became increasingly **corrupt**.

Some of the abuses (wrongful actions) of the Church included:

- selling **indulgences** (pardons for sins), which allowed people to buy forgiveness instead of doing penance
- Church officials having wives and mistresses, which went against Church law.



Why do you think nobody spoke out about the corruption during the Middle Ages?



**Martin Luther** was a theologian in Wittenberg, in Germany. He became angry when he learned that some of his parishioners had bought indulgences, because he believed that only God could pardon sins.



In 1517, Luther wrote a paper called the **95 Theses** which criticized the behavior of the Roman Catholic Church and its officials. He posted the theses to the door of a church in Wittenberg for everyone to see.

The paper was translated into German and printed many times. The Reformation had begun!



In 1520, Pope Leo X demanded that Luther recant (take back) his words. When he refused, he was **excommunicated** (thrown out of the Church).



In 1521, the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, released the **Edict of Worms**, calling Luther a heretic and forbidding his subjects from offering Luther aid.

However, some of the German princes in the Holy Roman Empire did support Luther. They signed a protest against the Pope, Charles and other Germanic princes who had agreed to oppose Luther. Peace was not made between Charles and all the princes until 1555.

How do you think Protestantism got its name?





# The spread of Protestantism





As Luther's ideas spread, different types of Protestantism developed.

- **Calvinism** was developed by the French theologian, John Calvin. He preached **predestination**, which is the idea that God has already decided who will be saved.
- John Knox introduced Calvinist ideas to Scotland. He set up a church run by a group of equal ranking elders, or presbyters. This is called **Presbyterianism**.
- The official religion of England changed several times under the Tudors, until Elizabeth II took the “middle way” and developed **Anglicanism**, a compromise between Protestantism and Catholicism.

Why do you think different types of Protestantism formed?



The spread of Protestantism showed the Roman Catholic Church that reform was needed urgently. The result was the Catholic Reformation.

The Society of Jesus (commonly called the **Jesuits**) was formed by **Ignatius Loyola**, a Catholic and a former soldier. The Society received official approval from Pope Paul III in 1540 and is considered a very important source of opposition to the Protestant Reformation.

In 1559, Pope Paul IV released the ***Index of Forbidden Books***, a list of books which were labeled heretical. Books on the list were seized and burned. The *Index* was not abolished until 1966!



Do you think this stopped ideas spreading?



In 1545, Pope Paul III formed the **Council of Trent**. It aimed to challenge Protestant arguments and reform the Catholic Church. The Council met several times over the next 18 years.



The Council confirmed Catholic **doctrine** (teachings) and rejected many claims made by the Protestants.

However, there was some reform. For example, the sale of indulgences for money was banned, although indulgences continued.

Can you think of any teachings that differ between the Catholic and Protestant Churches?



# Key figures



The consequences of the Reformation were far reaching.

- New Protestant faiths were established.
- New schools and universities were opened.
- The power and influence of the Roman Catholic Church declined.
- The Bible was translated into the vernacular.

However, not everything changed.  
For instance, Protestant leaders agreed women had no place in religion.



**Can you think of anything else that changed?**

