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| **The Renaissance**  |

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| **Background**The Renaissance was a time of creativity and change in Europe. It was a rebirth of cultural and intellectual pursuits after the stagnation of the **Middle Ages**. The Renaissance produced a **golden age** with many achievements in art, literature, and science, but most importantly, it produced a new concept of how people thought of themselves, each other, and the world around them. The Renaissance was centered in Italy during the 1300s, before spreading throughout Europe in the 1500 and 1600s. **Humanism**Humanism was an intellectual movement where people began to focus on **life in the present**, which was in contrast to the Middle Ages' focus on the after life. Humanism stressed the importance of **education**, with the study of ancient Greek and Roman texts becoming the learning standard. Humanism also stressed the importance of the **individual**. This movement was the driving force of the Renaissance and is reflected in the period's artistic, literary, and scientific achievements.**Art & Architecture**Renaissance artists and **architects** produced some of the finest works in all the world. While **religious** **art** was still very prominent, new styles were developed. **Humanist** **ideas**, and the concept of **realism**, was reflected in many art forms. Artists such as **Leonardo Da Vinci** studied **anatomy**, while others used **live** **models** to better catch the human form. Artists also learned the rules of **perspective** allowing them to give their works a **3 dimensional appearance**.Architects revived many ancient Greek and Roman styles, such as the use of **columns**, **domes**, and **arches**.**Artists****Michelangelo**: **Sculptor**, **painter**, **poet**, **engineer**, and **architect**. Famous works include the mural on the ceiling of the **Sistine Chapel**, and the sculpture of the biblical character ***David***.**Leonardo** **Da** **Vinci**: A true Renaissance man interested in a variety of subjects. He was a **painter**, **sculptor**, **engineer**, and **inventor**. Famous works include paintings ***Mona* *Lisa*** and ***The Last Supper***. Also left a variety of sketches showing **flying** **machines** and **underwater** **boats** centuries before the invention of **planes** and **submarines**.**Literature**Humanist ideas are reflected in works of Renaissance literature. The most famous writer of the time, **William Shakespeare**, wrote 37 plays between 1590 and 1613. His plays reflect the ideas of **individualism** and the unconquerable **human** **spirit**, and most of them are still performed today. Other important Renaissance authors include **Dante**, who wrote ***The* *Divine Comedy***, and **Miguel de Cervantes** who wrote the comedic tale ***Don Quixote***.Besides works of fiction, writings on **political** **philosophy** reappeared during this time period. the most well know political philosopher of the Renaissance was **Niccolo Machiavelli**, whose book ***The Prince***, reads as a "how to" guide for successful rule.**Technology**The most important technological innovation of the time was the **printing press**. The technology to make this possible was introduced from China in the 1300s. By the 1400s, movable type was being used in Europe as **Johann Gutenberg** began printing the **Bible** in everyday language. Soon millions of books were in circulation. This invention led to a higher **literacy** **rate** among people, and helped with the spreading of Renaissance ideas.**Scientific Revolution**The Scientific Revolution develops as a offshoot of the Renaissance. The same spirit of inquiry that fueled the Renaissance, led scientists to question traditional beliefs about the workings of the universe. One of the main ideas to come out of the Scientific Revolution was the use of the **Scientific** **Method**. The Scientific Method uses **observation** and **experimentation** to explain theories on how the universe works.**Copernicus****Nicolaus Copernicus** developed the **heliocentric** **model** of the universe. This states that the sun is the center, and that the earth revolves around it. Despite his calculations, many scholars disagree with his theories and continue to believe in the **geocentric model** proposed by the ancient **Greek** **Ptolemy** 1500 years earlier.**Galileo****Galileo** continues Copernicus' work by observing the skies with a homemade **telescope**. Although he was able to prove Copernicus correct, his work was rejected by the Church and he was forced to **recant** (take back) or face execution.**Newton****Isaac Newton** built upon the earlier work of Copernicus and Galileo and used mathematics to describe **gravity** as the force that keeps planets revolving around the sun. He also explained that this same force is what causes objects to fall to earth.**Descartes****Rene Descartes** was a French intellectual who challenged traditional ideas. He said that **human** **reason** was capable of discovering and explaining the laws of nature and man. The idea of human reason being superior to tradition led to the beginning of the **Enlightenment**, a time of political awakening that became **revolution**. |

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