

The Renaissance



Essential Question

Do art and literature reflect culture, or do they shape it?



About the Painting: *The Madonna of Chancellor Rollin*, painted by Jan van Eyck in about 1435, shows the infant Jesus and his mother Mary in a 15th-century European setting. It is painted with oil paints, which were developed during the Renaissance, and uses the technique of perspective.

In this module you will learn how European society was revitalized as classical art and ideas were embraced and improved upon.

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The Big Idea The Renaissance was a rebirth of learning and art.

Lesson 2: The Italian Renaissance. 546
The Big Idea The Italian Renaissance was a rediscovery of learning that produced many great works of art and literature.

Lesson 3: The Northern Renaissance. 554
The Big Idea In the 1400s, the ideas of the Italian Renaissance began to spread to northern Europe.

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The Big Idea The Renaissance was a period of striking achievements in many areas.

Explore ONLINE!



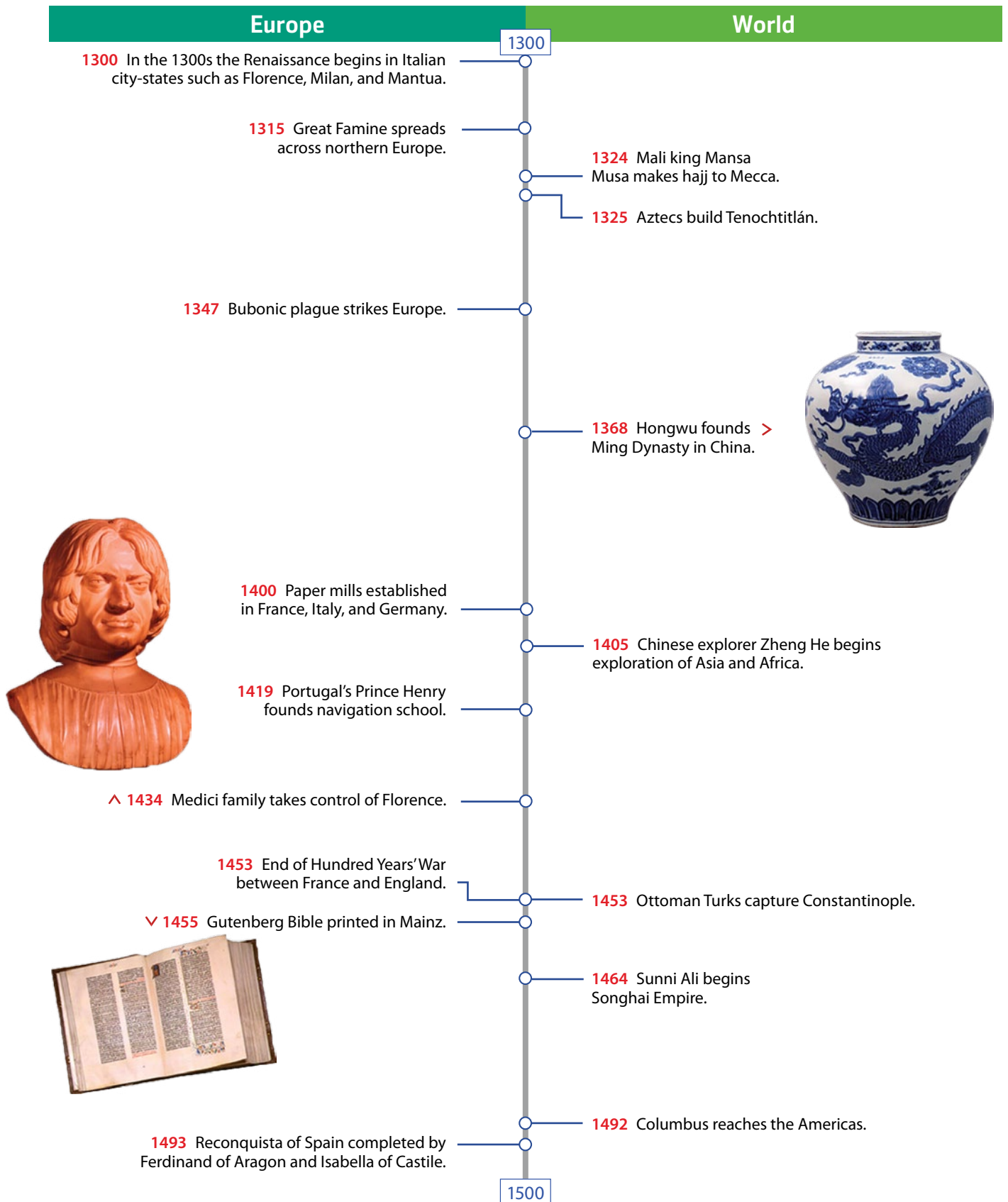
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Timeline of Events 1300–1500

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Birth of the Renaissance

The Big Idea

The Renaissance was a rebirth of learning and art.

Why It Matters Now

Renaissance art and ideas still influence thought today.

Key Terms and People

Renaissance
humanism
secular
patron

Setting the Stage

During the late Middle Ages, Europe suffered from both war and plague. Those who survived wanted to celebrate life and the human spirit. They began to question institutions of the Middle Ages, which had been unable to prevent war or to relieve suffering brought by the plague. Some people questioned the Church, which taught Christians to endure suffering while they awaited their rewards in heaven. Some writers and artists began to express this new spirit and to experiment with different styles. These men and women would greatly change how Europeans saw themselves and their world.

A Time of Change

From approximately 1300 to 1600, Europe experienced an explosion of creativity in art, architecture, writing, and thought. Historians call this period the **Renaissance** (rehn•ih•SAHNS). The term means “rebirth,” and in this context, it refers to a revival of art and learning. People of the Renaissance hoped to bring back the culture of classical Greece and Rome. Yet in striving to revive the past, they created something new. The contributions made during this period led to innovative styles of art and literature. They also led to new values, such as individualism, or a belief in the importance of the individual.

Although the developments of the Renaissance may seem to be a complete departure from the medieval era, they grew out of several important changes in society, politics, economics, and learning. These changes laid the foundation for the Renaissance.

Shifts in Society As a result of waves of famine and disease, Europe’s population in 1450 was much smaller than it had been in 1300. With far fewer people to feed, the general standard of living was much higher. People were also

generally better educated. Schools in the growing towns provided at least a basic education, which was extended by recently developed universities. As literacy rates increased, so did the demand for books.

Increased trade led to the development of a new class of people between the nobility at the top and the peasants at the bottom: the middle class. The merchants, bankers, and tradespeople in the middle class had more than enough income to meet their basic needs. They had extra money to buy luxury goods and fine homes, which helped to expand the economy still further.

New Sources of Knowledge After the fall of Rome, knowledge of Greek language and learning all but disappeared in Europe. It was maintained in the Byzantine Empire, which lay at the crossroads of Europe and Asia. In 1453, when the Ottomans captured Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire, many eminent Byzantine scholars fled to Italy. With their knowledge of the language and learning of classical Greece, they contributed to the new ways of thinking that helped lead to the Renaissance.

Many Greek texts, along with the knowledge to read them, were also preserved in the libraries of the Islamic Empire. The capital of Islamic Spain, Córdoba, was a center of classical learning. Scholars there wrote commentaries in Arabic on the works of Greek writers such as Aristotle and Plato. Jewish scholars in Spain translated these commentaries into Hebrew. Later, these scholars translated into Latin both the original Greek texts and the commentaries. As a result, Western scholars visiting the libraries of Islamic Spain were able to read the works of Greek writers.



Islamic influences in Córdoba include the Moorish-style Alcazar and the cathedral, formerly an Islamic mosque.



This painting by Vicente Lopez y Portana shows King Ferdinand II of Aragon and Queen Isabella of Castile receiving Boabdil, the last Muslim ruler of Granada, in 1492.

Reading Check
Analyze Effects
How did increasing
global contact
affect Europe?

New Technology Western Europeans also learned the technology of papermaking from Islamic Spain. Paper was first manufactured in China around 105 AD. In 751, technicians in the Abbasid caliphate learned the process. Because paper made it easier to create and store books, its use contributed to the growth of libraries. Papermaking soon spread through the Islamic world. By 1400, paper mills were to be found in France, Italy, and Germany. The availability of paper later helped make possible the development of printing.

A Changing Political Landscape Along with famine and disease, Europe had experienced almost constant warfare. Over the course of the 15th century, peace returned to much of the continent. The Hundred Years' War between France and England ended in 1453. The victory against England confirmed the French king's authority. A period of civil war followed in England, but when Henry VII came to power in 1485, England was again ruled by a strong central power. In Spain, the Reconquista, or Reconquest, was completed in 1493 by Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile. This ended Islamic rule and brought to a close 200 years of war on the peninsula.

The Rise of Italian City-States

The final major factor that contributed to the Renaissance was the rise of city-states in Italy. At a time when most of Europe was rural, agricultural, and manorial, Italy was much more urban and commercial. Since cities are often places where people exchange ideas, they were an ideal breeding ground for an intellectual revolution.

Economic Factors Overseas trade, spurred by the Crusades, led to the growth of large city-states in northern Italy. By the year 1000, Italian cities were at the forefront of an impressive economic expansion that would carry on into the Renaissance some 300 years later. Two decades into the 11th century, this financial success would allow Italian cities to begin to



Venice's waterways, such as the Grand Canal, are still the main thoroughfares of the city.

ignore the German emperor who claimed to control them.

Traditionally, wealth in Europe was based on land ownership. The growth in foreign trade created an economy based on commerce rather than agriculture. Merchants needed financial services, such as the ability to transfer money from one place to another. This led to the rise of banks, which soon became an important part of the city-states' economy. Some crucial aspects of finance, which helped develop the modern economy, were pioneered by the banks of northern Italy.

A wealthy merchant class developed in the Italian city-states. Unlike nobles, merchants did not inherit land and social

rank. To succeed in business, they used their wits. As a result, many successful merchants believed they deserved power and wealth because of their individual merit. This belief in individual achievement became important during the Renaissance.

In the 1300s, the bubonic plague struck these cities hard, killing up to 60 percent of the population. This brought economic changes. Because there were fewer laborers, survivors could demand higher wages. With few opportunities to expand business, merchants began to pursue other interests, such as supporting the arts.

Political Factors Political development in Italy was unlike that in other parts of Europe. Whereas countries like England and France steadily moved toward the consolidation of power into the hands of dynastic royal families, Italy remained fragmented. One reason for this was the development of a strong urban nobility that intermarried over time with rising commercial families. These noble families with commercial backing were then able to establish vital, independent bases in a number of Italian cities, mostly in northern and central Italy.

Venice Venice is in the north of Italy, on the Adriatic Coast. The city is built on a lagoon and is made up of over 100 islands where people first moved to find safety from raids after the fall of Rome. It grew into an international powerhouse after shedding the domination of first the Byzantines and then the Franks. The Crusades boosted Venice's standing even further, as Venetian merchants made fortunes supplying and transporting the crusaders. At this time, the city established a Mediterranean empire, controlling Crete and a number of other Greek islands.

Milan As an inland city, Milan lagged behind coastal trading powers such as Venice and Genoa in commercial terms. But it quickly arose as a center

of manufacturing. Of Milan's four principal industries—cloth, arms, metallurgy, and leather—cloth was the largest. But the trade in arms and metallurgy (tools, utensils, needles) was more profitable. Milanese body armor and weapons were prized throughout Europe and beyond. Trade was boosted in the 13th century by the opening of free passage along roads, canals, and rivers through much of northern Italy.

In Milan, prosperity spurred civic pride and energy and resulted in an upswelling of artistic creativity, public building, and further entrepreneurial endeavor. Unfortunately, this was also a time of frequent warfare—against nearby cities such as Pavia and Como and also the forces of the Holy Roman Empire.

Naples By the late 800s, Naples (in the south of Italy on the west coast) was relatively free from Lombard attacks and able to concentrate on trade, mostly with the Arab world. Increased wealth led to a flowering of architecture, the arts, and scholarship. At the beginning of the 10th century, Naples was a flourishing, independent city-state. This came to an end in the 1130s, when Norman invaders took over southern Italy. Next came the German emperor, Henry VI, to oust the Normans in 1194. Finally, the armies of Charles of Anjou ejected the Germans and established the Kingdom of Naples and Sicily in 1266. The Angevin dynasty ruled from Naples, boosting trade, mostly in arms and luxury goods, and the city's population, which grew to as much as 60,000 by the 1300s. Robert the Wise, king from 1309 to 1343, supported both public building and the arts, but the end of his reign marked the end of Neapolitan prosperity. Earthquakes in 1343 and 1349 and the Black Death in 1348 made sure that Naples limped along toward the Renaissance.

Florence Since the late 1200s, the city-state of Florence had a republican form of government. But during the Renaissance, Florence came under the rule of one powerful banking family, the Medici (MEHD·ih·chee). The Medici bank had branch offices throughout Italy and in the major cities of Europe. Cosimo de Medici was the wealthiest European of his time. In 1434, he won control of Florence's government. He did not seek political

BIOGRAPHY

Lorenzo de Medici

(1449–1492)

A rival family grew so jealous of the Medici that they plotted to kill Lorenzo and his brother Giuliano. As the Medici attended Mass, assassins murdered Giuliano at the altar. Drawing his sword, Lorenzo escaped to a small room and held off his attackers until help arrived. Later, he had the killers publicly executed.

More positively, Lorenzo was a generous patron of the arts who collected many rare manuscripts. Eventually the Medici family made their library available to the public.



office for himself but influenced members of the ruling council by giving them loans. For 30 years, he was dictator of Florence.

Cosimo de Medici died in 1464, but his family continued to control Florence. His grandson, Lorenzo de Medici, came to power in 1469. Known as Lorenzo the Magnificent, he ruled as a dictator yet kept up the appearance of having an elected government.

Rome By the mid-700s, Rome was the center of the Papal States—territories controlled by the pope. Rome’s wealthy, landholding families controlled the city and the papacy from about 900 until about 1050, when wealthy Romans whose money came from business and banking supported the papacy. In 1143, a revolt resulted in the Roman commune, in which Rome became a self-governing city with a republican constitution.



This portrait (c 1490) by Leonardo da Vinci of Cecilia Gallerani is known as “Lady with an Ermine.” It was commissioned by Ludovico Sforza, the Duke of Milan and a member of the Order of the Ermine. The duke was a generous patron of the arts and his court became a gathering place for artists, architects, poets, and musicians.

Reading Check

Contrast How was Italy unlike other countries in Europe?

Vocabulary

humanist/ humanities comes from a Latin term that means “studies of human nature”; it refers to the knowledge of culture that every educated person should possess

Classical and Worldly Values

As European scholars studied Greek writers and thinkers, they became more influenced by classical ideas. These ideas helped them develop a new outlook on life and art.

Classics Lead to Humanism The study of classical texts led to **humanism**, an intellectual movement that focused on human potential and achievements. Instead of trying to make classical texts agree with Christian teaching as medieval scholars had, humanists studied them to understand ancient Greek values. Humanists influenced artists and architects to carry on classical traditions. Also, humanists popularized the study of subjects common to classical education, such as history, literature, and philosophy. These subjects are called the humanities.

Worldly Pleasures In the Middle Ages, some people had demonstrated their piety by wearing rough clothing and eating plain foods. However, humanists suggested that a person might enjoy life without offending God. In Renaissance Italy, the wealthy enjoyed material luxuries, good music, and fine foods.

Most people remained devout Catholics. However, the basic spirit of Renaissance society was **secular**—worldly rather than spiritual, and concerned with the here and now instead of the hereafter. Even church leaders became more worldly. Some lived in beautiful mansions, threw lavish banquets, and wore expensive clothes.

The Renaissance Man



In *The Courtier*, Baldassare Castiglione described the type of accomplished person who later came to be called the Renaissance man.

“Let the man we are seeking be very bold, stern, and always among the first, where the enemy are to be seen; and in every other place, gentle, modest, reserved, above all things avoiding ostentation [showiness] and that impudent [bold] self-praise by which men ever excite hatred and disgust in all who hear them. . . .

I would have him more than passably accomplished in letters, at least in those studies that are called the humanities, and conversant not only with the Latin language but with Greek, for the sake of the many different things that have been admirably written therein. Let him be well versed in the poets, and not less in the orators and historians, and also proficient in writing verse and prose.”

—Baldassare Castiglione, *The Courtier*

The Renaissance Woman



Although Renaissance women were not expected to create art, wealthy women were often patrons of artists, as this letter by Isabella d’Este demonstrates.

“To Master Leonardo da Vinci, the painter: Hearing that you are settled at Florence, we have begun to hope that our cherished desire to obtain a work by your hand might be at length realized. When you were in this city and drew our portrait in carbon, you promised us that you would some day paint it in colors. But because this would be almost impossible, since you are unable to come here, we beg you to keep your promise by converting our portrait into another figure, which would be still more acceptable to us; that is to say, a youthful Christ of about twelve years. . . . executed with all that sweetness and charm of atmosphere which is the peculiar excellence of your art.”

Mantua, May 14, 1504

—Isabella D’Este, *Letters*

Analyze Historical Sources

Do the qualities called for in the ideal Renaissance man and woman seem to emphasize the individual or the group?

Patrons of the Arts Church leaders during the Renaissance beautified Rome and other cities by spending huge amounts of money for art. They became **patrons** of the arts by financially supporting artists. Renaissance merchants and wealthy families also became patrons of the arts. By having their portraits painted or by donating art to the city to place in public squares, the wealthy demonstrated their own importance.

The Renaissance Man During the Renaissance, as the idea of the individual became increasingly important, Renaissance writers introduced the idea of the “ideal” individual. This ideal person was expected to create art and to try to master almost every area of study. A man who excelled in many fields was praised as a “universal man.” Later ages called such people “Renaissance men.”

Baldassare Castiglione (kahs•teel•YOH•nay) wrote a book called *The Courtier* (1528) that described how to become such a person. A young man should be charming, witty, and well educated in the classics. He should dance, sing, play music, and write poetry. In addition, he should be a skilled rider, wrestler, and swordsman.

The Renaissance Woman According to *The Courtier*, upper-class women should also know the classics and be charming. Yet they were not expected to seek fame. They were expected to inspire art but rarely to create it. Upper-class Renaissance women were better educated than medieval women. However, most Renaissance women had little influence in politics.

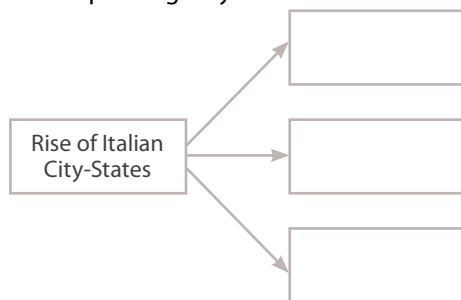
A few women, such as Isabella d’Este, did exercise power. Born into the ruling family of the city-state of Ferrara, she married the ruler of another city-state, Mantua. She brought many Renaissance artists to her court and built a famous art collection. She was also skilled in politics. When her husband was taken captive in war, she defended Mantua and won his release.

Reading Check

Compare How were expectations for Renaissance men and Renaissance women similar?

Lesson 1 Assessment

- Organize Information** Use a diagram like this one to show the causes of the rise of Italian city-states. Which cause do you think was the most important? Write a sentence explaining why.



- Key Terms and People** For each key term or person in the lesson, write a sentence explaining its significance.
- Synthesize** What are some of the characteristics of the “Renaissance man” and “Renaissance woman”?
- Analyze Causes** What was the attitude of Church leaders and the wealthy toward the arts? Why?
- Draw Conclusions** How did study of the classics influence branches of learning such as history, literature, and philosophy?
- Compare** What were the differences between medieval and Renaissance attitudes toward worldly pleasures?



The Italian Renaissance

The Big Idea

The Italian Renaissance was a rediscovery of learning that produced many great works of art and literature.

Why It Matters Now

Renaissance art and literature still influence modern thought and modern art.

Key Terms and People

perspective
Michelangelo
Leonardo da Vinci

Setting the Stage

The Renaissance began in northern Italy. Italy's city-states were wealthy, with an advanced urban society, and they felt a sense of connection with the classical past of ancient Rome and Greece. During the Renaissance, these city-states were home to some of the world's most extraordinary writers and artists.

Artists of the Italian Renaissance

Supported by patrons like Isabella d'Este, dozens of artists worked in northern Italy. These artists excelled at imitating nature, which became an important aspect of Renaissance painting and sculpture. Medieval artists had used religious subjects to convey a spiritual ideal. Renaissance artists often portrayed religious subjects, but they used a realistic style copied from classical models. Greek and Roman subjects also became popular. Renaissance painters used the technique of **perspective**, a way of showing three dimensions on a flat surface. The introduction of oil-based paints, first developed in Flanders, allowed artists to create more realistic forms and details. Following the new emphasis on individuals, painters began to paint prominent citizens. These realistic portraits revealed what was distinctive about each person.

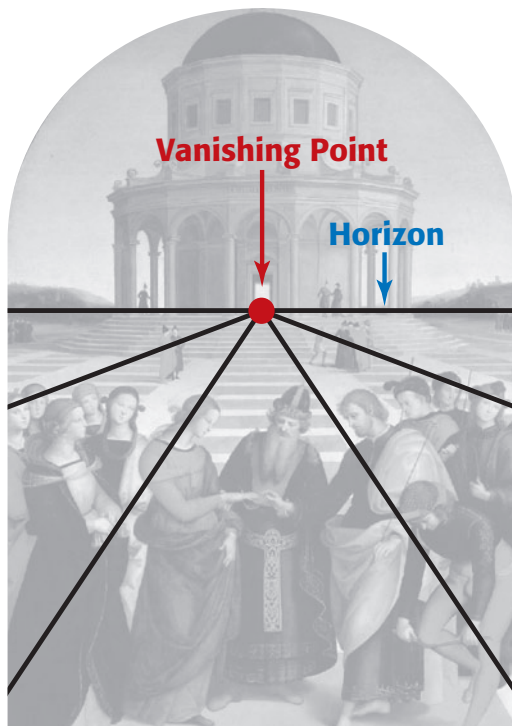
In Florence, artists such as the sculptor, poet, architect, and painter **Michelangelo** (my•kuhl•AN•juh•loh) Buonarroti used a realistic style when depicting the human body. The sculptor Donatello (dahn•uh•TEHL•oh) revived a classical form in his statue of David, a boy who, according to the Bible, became a great king. Donatello's statue was created in the late 1460s. It was the first European sculpture of a large, free-standing nude since ancient times. David was a favorite subject for sculptors of the period, including Michelangelo.

Leonardo da Vinci, Renaissance Man **Leonardo da Vinci** (lay•uh•NAHR•doh•duh•VIHN•chee) was a painter, sculptor, inventor, and scientist. A true "Renaissance man," he was

Perspective

Perspective creates the appearance of three dimensions. Classical artists had used perspective, but medieval artists abandoned the technique. In the 1400s, Italian artists rediscovered it.

Perspective is based on an optical illusion. As parallel lines stretch away from a viewer, they seem to draw together, until they meet at a spot on the horizon called the vanishing point. The use of perspective was a feature of most Western painting for the next 450 years.



Marriage of the Virgin (1504), Raphael

Analyze Visuals

What is the major difference between the figures in the background of the painting and the figures in the foreground? What is the effect of this difference?

interested in how things worked. He studied how a muscle moves and how veins are arranged in a leaf. His notebooks contain anatomical, mathematical, optical, mechanical, geological, and botanical studies. He sketched designs for machines that resemble modern tanks and helicopters.

Among Leonardo's masterpieces is one of the best-known portraits in the world, the *Mona Lisa*. The woman in the portrait seems so real that many writers have tried to explain the thoughts behind her smile. Leonardo also produced a famous religious painting, *The Last Supper*. It shows the personalities of Jesus' disciples through facial expressions.

Raphael Advances Realism Raphael (RAHF•ee•uhl) Sanzio learned by studying the work of Michelangelo and Leonardo. One of Raphael's favorite subjects was the Madonna and child, whom he portrayed with gentle, calm expressions. He was famous for his use of perspective.

In his greatest achievement, Raphael filled the walls of Pope Julius II's library with paintings. One of these, *School of Athens*, shows the classical influence. Raphael painted famous figures such as Michelangelo, Leonardo, and himself as classical philosophers and their students.

Anguissola and Gentileschi Renaissance society generally restricted women's roles. However, a few Italian women became notable painters. Sofonisba Anguissola (ahng•GWEEES•soh•lah) was the first woman artist to gain an international reputation. She is known for her portraits of her sisters and of prominent people such as King Philip II of Spain. Artemisia Gentileschi (jayn•tee•LEHS•kee) was another accomplished artist. She trained with her painter father and helped with his work. In her own paintings, Gentileschi painted pictures of strong, heroic women.

BIOGRAPHY



Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519)

Leonardo da Vinci's notebooks—and life—are mysterious. Some 3,500 pages closely covered with writings and

drawings survive. His writing is clear and easy to read, but only if you look at it in a mirror. No one knows why he wrote backwards.

Leonardo planned scholarly works and great feats of engineering that were never completed. Only 17 of his paintings survive, and yet the work that Leonardo did produce is so extraordinary that it confirms his genius.



Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475–1564)

Michelangelo was a true Renaissance man, excelling as a painter, sculptor, architect, and poet.

He is best known for the way he showed the human body. Influenced by classical art, he created forceful, heroic figures. Famous works include his ceiling frescoes in the Sistine Chapel and his sculptures *Pietà* and *David*. His architectural and engineering works include the dome of St. Peter's and the Capitoline Square. This "square" was in fact a trapezoid of sloping ground. Michelangelo created an elegant solution for a difficult site.

Reading Check

Compare How
were Leonardo and
Michelangelo alike?

Italian Renaissance Architecture Even more than painting and sculpture, Renaissance architecture showed its classical roots. Features included classical Roman forms such as columns and domes. Renaissance architects focused on proportion in their designs. As a result the spaces they designed are clear and easy to comprehend.

One of the pioneers of Italian Renaissance architecture was Filippo Brunelleschi. His designs fused classical elements with the Romanesque style, a mixture of Roman, Byzantine, and local styles. As well as rediscovering the principles of linear perspective, Brunelleschi devised a way to build huge domes, using machines of his own invention.

Venetian architect Andrea Palladio studied surviving Roman buildings as well as the works of Roman architects. He wrote a book with rules and plans for buildings. With its clear, detailed illustrations, his book inspired architects in many countries to design buildings in the same style.

Writers of the Italian Renaissance

The dominant feature of Italian Renaissance writing was humanism. Many Italian writers incorporated classical ideals in their work.

Petrarch and Boccaccio Francesco Petrarch (PEE•trahrk) was one of the earliest and most influential humanists. Some have called him the father of Renaissance humanism. He was also a great poet. Petrarch wrote both in Italian and in Latin. In Italian, he wrote sonnets—14-line poems. They were about a mysterious woman named Laura, who was his ideal woman. (Little is known of Laura except that she died of the plague in 1348.) In classical Latin, he wrote letters to many important friends.

The Italian writer Giovanni Boccaccio (boh•KAH•chee•oh) is best known for the *Decameron*, a series of realistic, sometimes off-color stories. The stories are supposedly told by a group of worldly young people waiting in a rural villa to avoid the plague sweeping through Florence:

“In the year of Our Lord 1348 the deadly plague broke out in the great city of Florence, most beautiful of Italian cities. Whether through the operation of the heavenly bodies or because of our own iniquities [sins] which the just wrath of God sought to correct, the plague had arisen in the East some years before, causing the death of countless human beings. It spread without stop from one place to another, until, unfortunately, it swept over the West. Neither knowledge nor human foresight availed against it, though the city was cleansed of much filth by chosen officers in charge and sick persons were forbidden to enter it, while advice was broadcast for the preservation of health.”

—Giovanni Boccaccio, Preface, *Decameron*

The *Decameron* presents both tragic and comic views of life. In its stories, the author uses cutting humor to illustrate the human condition. Boccaccio presents his characters in all their individuality and folly.

Machiavelli Advises Rulers *The Prince* (1513) by Niccolò Machiavelli (mak•ee•uh•VEHL•ee) also examines the imperfect conduct of human beings. Machiavelli lived in Florence, which was a center of philosophy and the arts. However, it was also the subject of a series of conflicts as different individuals and factions struggled for power. Machiavelli watched as the Medici ruler was driven from Florence by French forces, only to make a triumphant return to power.

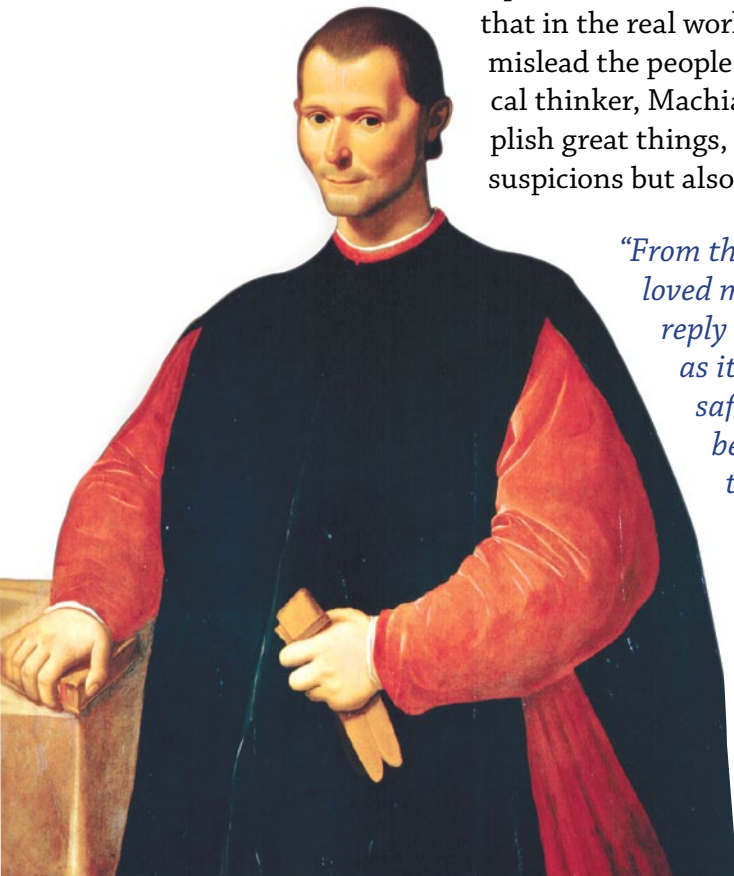
The Prince, which was first published after Machiavelli's death, follows a long tradition of books offering advice for princes. However, before Machiavelli, most writers urged princes to model themselves after a good and able ruler. Machiavelli recommended that princes should think for themselves. Rather than identifying what “should” be done, rulers should base their actions on the needs of a given situation. In *The Prince*, Machiavelli was not concerned with what was morally right but with what was politically effective.

In answering the question of how a ruler can gain power and keep it in spite of enemies, he began with the idea that most people are selfish, fickle, and corrupt. To succeed in such a wicked world, Machiavelli said, a prince must be strong as a lion and shrewd as a fox. For the good of the state, he might have to trick his enemies or even his own people.

He pointed out that most people think it is praiseworthy in a prince to keep his word and live with integrity. Nevertheless, Machiavelli argued that in the real world of power and politics a prince must sometimes mislead the people and lie to his opponents. As a historian and political thinker, Machiavelli suggested that in order for a prince to accomplish great things, he must be crafty enough to not only overcome the suspicions but also gain the trust of others:

“From this arises the question whether it is better to be loved more than feared, or feared more than loved. The reply is, that one ought to be both feared and loved, but as it is difficult for the two to go together, it is much safer to be feared than loved, if one of the two has to be wanting. For it may be said of men in general that they are ungrateful, voluble [changeable], dissemblers [liars], anxious to avoid danger, and covetous of gain; as long as you benefit them, they are entirely yours; they offer you their blood, their goods, their life, and their children, as I have before said, when the necessity is remote; but when it approaches, they revolt. And the prince who has relied solely on their words, without making preparations, is ruined.”

—Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*



Niccolò Machiavelli

Vittoria Colonna The women writers who gained fame during the Renaissance usually wrote about personal subjects, not politics. Yet some of them had great influence. Vittoria Colonna (1492–1547) was born of a noble family. In 1509, she married the Marquis of Pescara. He spent most of his life away from home on military campaigns.

Vittoria Colonna exchanged sonnets with Michelangelo and helped Castiglione publish *The Courtier*. Her own poems express personal emotions. When her husband was away at the Battle of Ravenna in 1512, she wrote to him:

“But now in this perilous assault, in this horrible, pitiless battle that has so hardened my mind and heart, your great valor has shown you an equal to Hector and Achilles. But what good is this to me, sorrowful, abandoned? . . . Your uncertain enterprises do not hurt you; but we who wait, mournfully grieving, are wounded by doubt and fear. You men, driven by rage, considering nothing but your honor, commonly go off, shouting, with great fury, to confront danger. We remain, with fear in our heart and grief on our brow for you; sister longs for brother, wife for husband, mother for son.”

—Vittoria Colonna, *Poems*

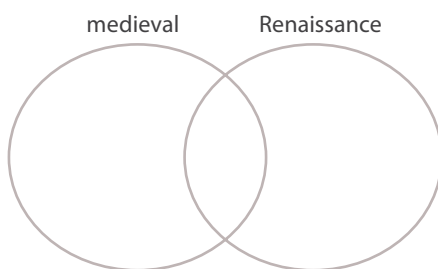
An ardent humanist and intellectual, Colonna was active in literary, political, and religious life. Her poetry, written in the vernacular, was widely published during her lifetime. Vittoria Colonna was the first secular woman writer to attain high literary status in Italy, and her achievements made her a role model for later women writers.

Reading Check

Draw Conclusions
Does Machiavelli think that a prince should prefer to be loved or feared? Why?

Lesson 2 Assessment

1. **Organize Information** Use a Venn diagram like this one to compare medieval and Renaissance art.



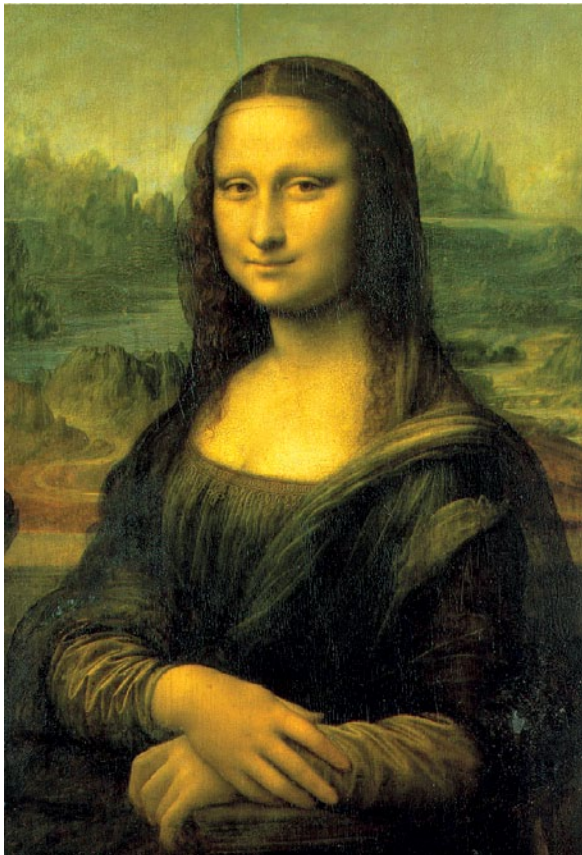
How were they similar?
How were they different?

2. **Key Terms and People** For each key term or person in the lesson, write a sentence explaining its significance.
3. **Make Inferences** How is the humanism of the Renaissance reflected in its art? Explain with examples.
4. **Contrast** How is Machiavelli's political advice different from the traditional view?
5. **Summarize** Reread the excerpt from Boccaccio's *Decameron*. What possible causes of the plague does he suggest?
6. **Draw Conclusions** At a time when few women became artists, what might have helped Artemisia Gentileschi in her chosen career?

Renaissance Ideas Influence Renaissance Art

The Renaissance in Italy produced extraordinary achievements in many different forms of art, including painting, architecture, sculpture, and drawing. These art forms were used by talented artists to express important ideas and attitudes of the age.

The value of humanism is shown in Raphael's *School of Athens*, a depiction of the greatest Greek philosophers. The realism of Renaissance art is seen in portraits such as Leonardo's *Mona Lisa*, which is an expression of the subject's unique features and personality. And Michelangelo's *David* shares stylistic qualities with ancient Greek and Roman sculpture.

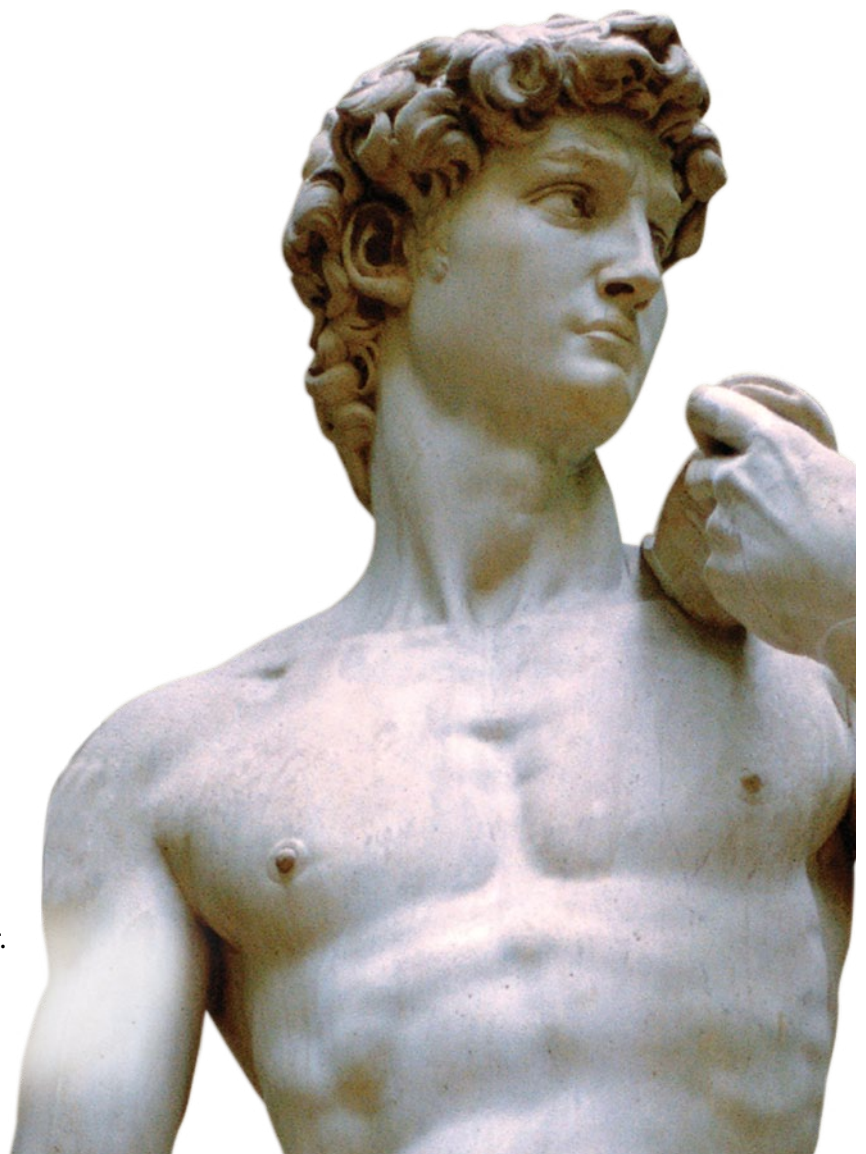


◀ PORTRAYING INDIVIDUALS

Leonardo Da Vinci The *Mona Lisa* (c. 1504–1506) is thought to be a portrait of Lisa Gherardini, who, at 16, married Francesco del Giocondo, a wealthy merchant of Florence who commissioned the portrait. “Mona Lisa” is a shortened form of Madonna Lisa (Madam, or My Lady, Lisa). Renaissance artists showed individuals as they really looked.

CLASSICAL AND RENAISSANCE SCULPTURE ▶

Michelangelo Influenced by classical statues, Michelangelo sculpted *David* from 1501 to 1504. Michelangelo portrayed the biblical hero in the moments just before battle. David's posture is graceful, yet his figure also displays strength. The statue, which is 18 feet tall, towers over the viewer.





▲ THE IMPORTANCE OF ANCIENT GREECE

Raphael The painting *School of Athens* (1508) was created for the pope's apartments in the Vatican. It shows how highly regarded the scholars of ancient Greece were during the Renaissance. Plato and Aristotle stand under the center arch. To their right, Socrates argues with several young men. Toward the front, Pythagoras draws a lesson on a slate and Ptolemy holds a globe.

RENAISSANCE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ►

Leonardo Da Vinci Leonardo filled his notebooks with observations and sketches of new inventions. This drawing from his notebooks shows a design for a spiral screw to achieve vertical flight. Leonardo's drawing anticipated the helicopter.



Critical Thinking

1. Draw Conclusions How do the works of Renaissance artists and architects reflect Renaissance ideas? Explain.

2. Synthesize Look through books on architecture to find examples of American architects who were influenced by the architects and buildings of the Italian Renaissance. Share your findings with the class.



The Northern Renaissance

The Big Idea

In the 1400s, the ideas of the Italian Renaissance began to spread to northern Europe.

Why It Matters Now

Renaissance ideas such as the importance of the individual are an important part of modern thought.

Key Terms and People

utopia

William Shakespeare

Johann Gutenberg

Reading Check

Contrast How did the Northern Renaissance differ from the Italian Renaissance?

Setting The Stage

The work of such artists as Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael showed the Renaissance spirit. All three artists demonstrated an interest in classical culture, a curiosity about the world, and a belief in human potential. Humanist writers expanded ideas about individuality. These ideas impressed scholars, students, and merchants who visited Italy. By the late 1400s, Renaissance ideas had spread to northern Europe—especially England, France, Germany, and Flanders (now part of France and the Netherlands).

The Northern Renaissance Begins

By 1450 the population of northern Europe, which had declined due to bubonic plague, was beginning to grow again. When the destructive Hundred Years' War between France and England ended in 1453, many cities grew rapidly. Urban merchants became wealthy enough to sponsor artists. This happened first in Flanders, which was rich from long-distance trade and the cloth industry. Then, as wealth increased in other parts of northern Europe, patronage of artists increased as well.

Unlike Italy, which was divided into city-states, England and France were unified under strong monarchs. These rulers often sponsored the arts by purchasing paintings and by supporting artists and writers. For example, Francis I of France invited Leonardo da Vinci to retire in France, and hired Italian artists and architects to rebuild and decorate his castle at Fontainebleau (fahn•tih•n•BLOH). The castle became a showcase for Renaissance art.

As Renaissance ideas spread out of Italy, they mingled with northern traditions. As a result, the northern Renaissance developed its own character. For example, the Renaissance ideal of human dignity inspired some northern humanists to develop plans for social reform based on Judeo-Christian values.

Artistic Ideas Spread

In 1494, a French king claimed the throne of Naples in southern Italy and launched an invasion through northern Italy. As the war dragged on, many Italian artists and writers left for a safer life in northern Europe. They brought with them the styles and techniques of the Italian Renaissance. In addition, northern European artists who studied in Italy carried Renaissance ideas back to their homelands.

German Painters Perhaps the most famous person to do this was the German artist Albrecht Dürer (DYUR•uhr). He traveled to Italy to study in 1494. After returning to Germany, Dürer produced woodcuts and engravings. Many of his prints portray religious subjects. Others portray classical myths or realistic landscapes. The popularity of Dürer's work helped to spread Renaissance styles.

Dürer's emphasis upon realism influenced the work of another German artist, Hans Holbein (HOHL•byn) the Younger. Holbein specialized in painting portraits that are almost photographic in detail. He emigrated to England where he painted portraits of King Henry VIII and other members of the English royal family.

Flemish Painters The support of wealthy merchant families in Flanders helped to make Flanders the artistic center of northern Europe. The first great Flemish Renaissance painter was Jan van Eyck (yahn•van•YK). Van Eyck used recently developed oil-based paints to develop techniques that painters still use. By applying layer upon layer of paint, van Eyck was able to create a variety of subtle colors in clothing and jewels. Oil painting became popular and spread to Italy.

In addition to new techniques, van Eyck's paintings display unusually realistic details and reveal the personality of their subjects. His work influenced later artists in northern Europe.

DOCUMENT-BASED INVESTIGATION Historical Source

Peasant Wedding

The Flemish painter Pieter Bruegel's paintings provide information about peasant life in the 1500s. *Peasant Wedding* (1568) portrays a wedding feast.

- **The Bride** The bride sits under the paper crown hanging on the green cloth.
- **The Servers** Men who may be her brothers are passing out plates.
- **The Guests** Several children have come to the party.
- **The Musicians** They are carrying bagpipes. One glances hungrily at the food.

Analyze Historical Sources

In what ways does this painting present a snapshot of peasant life?



Reading Check

Summarize

What techniques did Bruegel use to give life to his paintings?

Flemish painting reached its peak after 1550 with the work of Pieter Bruegel (BROY•guh) the Elder. Bruegel was also interested in realistic details and individual people. He was very skillful in portraying large numbers of people. He captured scenes from everyday peasant life such as weddings, dances, and harvests. Bruegel's rich colors, vivid details, and balanced use of space give a sense of life and feeling.

Northern Writers Try to Reform Society

Italian humanists were very interested in reviving classical languages and classical texts. When the Italian humanist ideas reached the north, people used them to examine the traditional teachings of the Church. The northern humanists were critical of the failure of the Christian Church to inspire people to live a Christian life. This criticism produced a new movement known as Christian humanism. The focus of Christian humanism was the reform of society. Of particular importance to humanists was education. The humanists promoted the education of women and founded schools attended by both boys and girls.

Christian Humanists The best known of the Christian humanists were Desiderius Erasmus (dehz•ih•DEER•ee•uhs ih•RAZ•muhs) of Holland and Thomas More of England. The two were close friends.

In 1509, Erasmus wrote his most famous work, *The Praise of Folly*. This book poked fun at greedy merchants, heartsick lovers, quarrelsome scholars, and pompous priests. Erasmus believed in a Christianity of the heart, not one of ceremonies or rules. He thought that in order to improve society, all people should study the Bible.

Thomas More tried to show a better model of society. In 1516, he wrote the book *Utopia*. In Greek, **utopia** means “no place.” In English it has come to mean an ideal place as depicted in More's book. The book is about an imaginary land where greed, corruption, and war have been weeded out. In *Utopia*, because there was little greed, Utopians had little use for money:

“Gold and silver, of which money is made, are so treated . . . that no one values them more highly than their true nature deserves. Who does not see that they are far inferior to iron in usefulness since without iron mortals cannot live any more than without fire and water?”

—Thomas More, *Utopia*

More wrote in Latin. Eventually, his writing was translated into a variety of languages including French, German, English, Spanish, and Italian, making his ideas widely available.

Women's Reforms During this period the vast majority of Europeans were unable to read or write. Those families who could afford formal schooling usually sent only their sons. One woman spoke out against this practice. Christine de Pizan was highly educated for the time and was one



Christian humanist
Thomas More



Christine de Pizan is best known for her works defending women.

Reading Check

Analyze Issues

What kind of reform does de Pizan argue for?

Reading Check

Summarize

What are two ways in which Shakespeare's work showed Renaissance influences?

of the first women to earn a living as a writer. Writing in French, she produced many books, including short stories, biographies, novels, and manuals on military techniques. She frequently wrote about the objections men had to educating women. In one book, *The Book of the City of Ladies*, she wrote:

"I am amazed by the opinion of some men who claim that they do not want their daughters, wives, or kinswomen to be educated because their mores [morals] would be ruined as a result. . . . Here you can clearly see that not all opinions of men are based on reason and that these men are wrong."

—Christine de Pizan, *The Book of the City of Ladies*

Christine de Pizan was one of the first European writers to question different treatment of boys and girls. However, her goal of formal education for children of both sexes would not be achieved for several centuries.

The Elizabethan Age

The Renaissance spread to England in the mid-1500s. The period was known as the Elizabethan Age, after Queen Elizabeth I. Elizabeth reigned from 1558 to 1603. She was well educated and spoke French, Italian, Latin, and Greek. She also wrote poetry and music. As queen she did much to support the development of English art and literature.

William Shakespeare The most famous writer of the Elizabethan Age was **William Shakespeare**. Many people regard him as the greatest playwright of all time. Shakespeare was born in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, a small town about 90 miles northwest of London. By 1592 he was living in London and writing poems and plays, and soon he would be performing at the Globe Theater.

Like many Renaissance writers, Shakespeare revered the classics and drew on them for inspiration and plots. His works display a masterful command of the English language and a deep understanding of human beings. He revealed the souls of men and women through scenes of dramatic conflict. Many of these plays examine human flaws. However, Shakespeare also had one of his characters deliver a speech that expresses the Renaissance's high view of human nature:

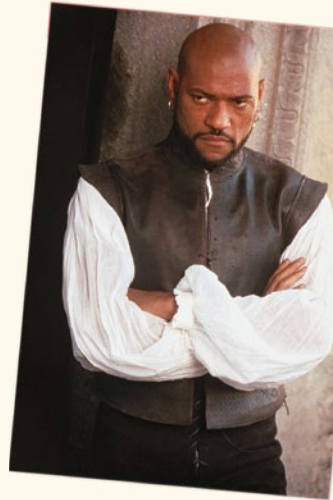
"What a piece of work is a man, how noble in reason, how infinite in faculties, in form and moving, how express and admirable; in action how like an angel, in apprehension [understanding] how like a god: the beauty of the world, the paragon of animals."

—William Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (Act 2, Scene 2)

Shakespeare's most famous plays include the tragedies *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *King Lear*, and the comedies *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Shakespeare's Popularity

Even though he has been dead for about 400 years, Shakespeare remains a favorite with filmmakers. His themes have been adapted for many films, including some in foreign languages. These photos are from movie versions of some of Shakespeare's plays including *Othello* and *Romeo and Juliet* (in period costume); a Japanese film, *Ran*, an adaptation of *King Lear*; and *10 Things I Hate About You*, an adaptation of *The Taming of the Shrew* in a modern setting.



Printing Spreads Renaissance Ideas

The Chinese invented block printing in which a printer carved words or letters on a wooden block, inked the block, and then used it to print on paper. Around 1045, Bi Sheng invented movable type, which uses a separate piece of type for each character in the language. The Chinese writing system contains thousands of different characters, so most Chinese printers found movable type impractical. However, the method would prove practical for Europeans because their languages can be written using a small number of letters.

By the early 1400s in Europe, paper had replaced parchment, a writing material made from animal hides. Parchment was expensive and could not be mass-produced. Paper could be produced quickly and inexpensively. Its availability helped facilitate the printing of whole books.

Gutenberg Improves the Printing Process During the 13th century, block-printed items reached Europe from China. European printers began to use block printing to create whole pages to bind into books. However, this process was too slow to satisfy the Renaissance demand for knowledge, information, and books.

Around 1440 **Johann Gutenberg**, a craftsman from Mainz, Germany, developed a printing press that incorporated a number of technologies in a new way. The process made it possible to produce books quickly and cheaply. Using this improved process, Gutenberg printed a complete Bible, the Gutenberg Bible, in about 1455. It was the first full-sized book printed with movable type.

The printing press enabled a printer to produce hundreds of copies of a single work. For the first time, books were cheap enough that many people could buy them. At first printers produced mainly religious works. Soon they began to provide books on other subjects such as travel guides and medical manuals.

Reading Check

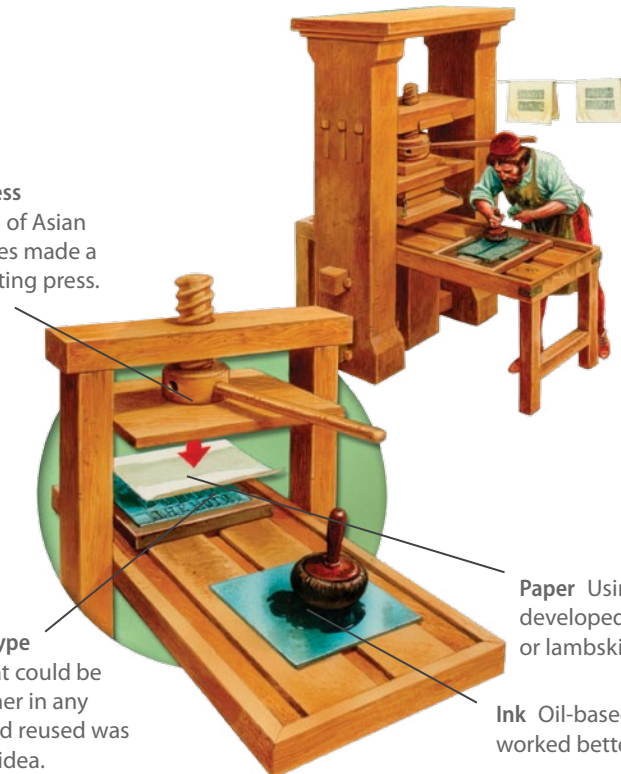
Analyze Effects

How did the invention of the printing press affect the dissemination of knowledge and ideas?

Global Patterns

The Printing Press

Many inventions are creative combinations of known technologies. In 1452, Johann Gutenberg combined known technologies from Europe and Asia with his idea for molding movable type to create a printing press that changed the world.



Screw-type Press
An adaptation of Asian olive-oil presses made a workable printing press.

Movable Type
Letters that could be put together in any fashion and reused was a Chinese idea.

Paper Using paper mass-produced by techniques developed in China, rather than parchment (calf or lambskin), made printing books possible.

Ink Oil-based inks from 10th-century Europe worked better on type than tempera ink.

A copyist took five months to produce a single book.

5 months → 1 book

One man and a printing press could produce 500 books in the same amount of time.

5 months → 500 books

Critical Thinking

1. Draw Conclusions About how many books could a printing press produce in a month?

2. Make Inferences Which areas of the world contributed ideas that were used in developing Gutenberg's printing press?

Lesson 3 Assessment

1. Organize Information Create a timeline showing key events of the Northern Renaissance.



Which of the events listed do you think was most important? Explain.

2. Key Terms and People For each key term or person in the lesson, write a sentence explaining its significance.

3. Form Generalizations How did Albrecht Dürer's work reflect the influence of the Italian Renaissance?

4. Analyze Effects What was one way the Renaissance changed society?

5. Compare How were the paintings of the northern painters different from those of Flemish painters? Give examples.

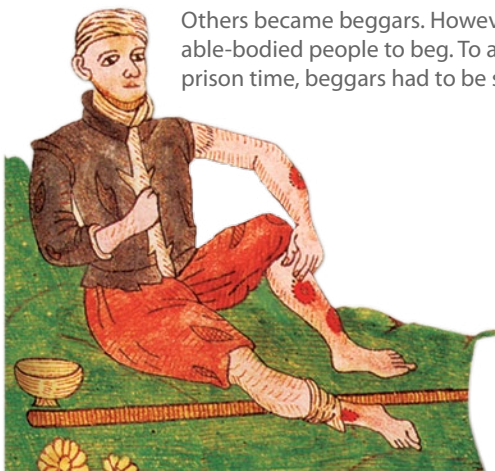
6. Analyze Motives What reasons did humanists give for wanting to reform society? Explain.

CITY LIFE IN RENAISSANCE EUROPE

Throughout the 1500s, the vast majority of Europeans—more than 75 percent—lived in rural areas. However, the capital and port cities of most European countries experienced remarkable growth during this time. The population of London, for example, stood at about 200,000 in 1600, making it perhaps the largest city in Europe. In London, and in other large European cities, a distinctively urban way of life developed in the Renaissance era.

▼ **JOBLESSNESS**

Many newcomers to London struggled to find jobs and shelter. Some turned to crime to make a living. Others became beggars. However, it was illegal for able-bodied people to beg. To avoid a whipping or prison time, beggars had to be sick or disabled.



▲ **ENTERTAINMENT**

In Renaissance England, performances at playhouses were often wild affairs. If audiences did not like the play, they booed loudly, pelted the stage with garbage, and sometimes attacked the actors.

▼ **SANITATION**

This small pomander (pom·an·durh), a metal container filled with spices, was crafted in the shape of orange segments. Well-to-do Londoners held pomanders to their noses to shield themselves from the stench of the rotting garbage that littered the streets.



▼ FOOD

A typical meal for wealthy Londoners might include fish, several kinds of meat, bread, and a variety of vegetables, served on silver or pewter tableware. The diet of the poor was simpler. They rarely ate fish, meat, or cheese. Usually, their meals consisted of a pottage—a kind of soup—of vegetables. And the poor ate their meals from a trencher, a hollowed-out slab of stale bread or wood.

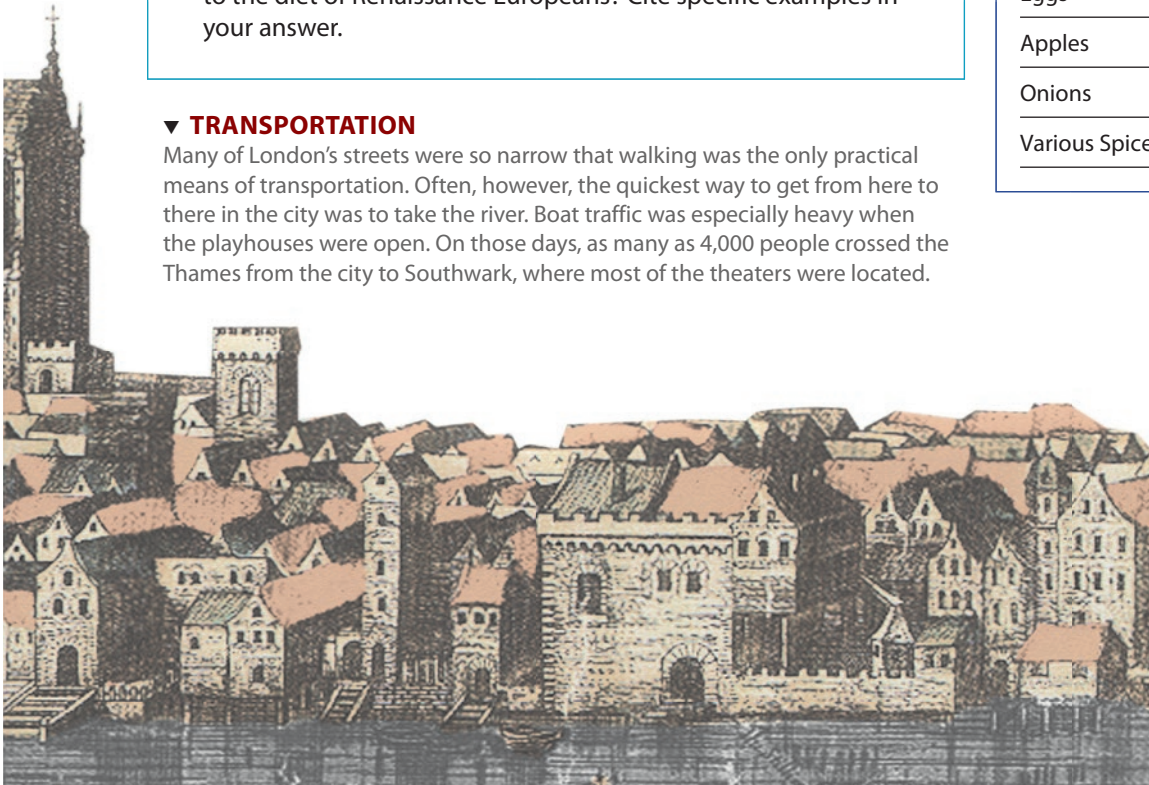


Critical Thinking

- 1. Make Inferences** Study the images and captions, as well as the information in the tables. What inferences about the standard of living of London's wealthy citizens can you make from this information? How did it compare to the standard of living of London's common people?
- 2. Compare** How does diet in the United States today compare to the diet of Renaissance Europeans? Cite specific examples in your answer.

▼ TRANSPORTATION

Many of London's streets were so narrow that walking was the only practical means of transportation. Often, however, the quickest way to get from here to there in the city was to take the river. Boat traffic was especially heavy when the playhouses were open. On those days, as many as 4,000 people crossed the Thames from the city to Southwark, where most of the theaters were located.



COST OF LIVING IN RENAISSANCE LONDON

These tables show what typical Londoners earned and spent in the late 1500s. The basic denominations in English currency at the time were the pound (£), the shilling, and the penny (12 pence equaled 1 shilling, and 20 shillings equaled 1 pound). The pound of the late 1500s is roughly equivalent to \$400 in 2018.

Typical Earnings

Merchant	£100 per year
Skilled Worker	£13 per year (about 5 shillings/week)
Unskilled Worker	£5 per year (about 4 pence/day)
Servant	£1 to £2 per year (plus food and lodging)

Typical Prices

Lodging	4 to 8 pence a week
Beef	3 pence per lb
Chickens	1 penny each
Eggs	2 pence per dozen
Apples	1 penny per dozen
Onions	1/2 penny a sack
Various Spices	10 to 11 shillings per lb



Renaissance Achievements

The Main Idea

The Renaissance was a period of striking achievements in many areas.

Why It Matters Now

The achievements of Renaissance artists, writers, scientists, and thinkers continue to affect people around the world today.

Key Terms and People

vernacular
skepticism

Setting the Stage

The ideas and innovations introduced during the Renaissance had far-reaching effects. The way people interacted with their world was profoundly altered. Some Renaissance innovations laid the foundation for global changes in the years that followed.

Cultural and Social Achievements

The European Renaissance was a period of great artistic and social change. It marked a break with the medieval ideals that were focused around the Church. The Renaissance belief in the dignity of the individual played a key role in the gradual rise of democratic ideas. Furthermore, the impact of the movable-type printing press was tremendous. Some historians have suggested that its effects were even more dramatic than the arrival of personal computers in the 20th century.

Changes in Art During the Renaissance, artistic styles changed as artists incorporated humanistic ideas in their work. Medieval artists had used religious subjects to convey a spiritual ideal, often arranging saints and Biblical figures in stiff groups. Renaissance painters often portrayed religious subjects, but they used a realistic style copied from classical models. They used light and shadow (called *chiaroscuro*) to give scenes added depth and fullness. As well as creating religious works, painters created secular works. Greek and Roman subjects also became popular.

New techniques and media also changed art. One important change was the introduction of paint that used oils as a binding agent. Earlier types of paint used binders such as eggs, which dry quickly. The longer drying time of oil paint meant artists could continue to add detail to a work for a longer period of time. A key technique was the use of perspective to show three dimensions on a flat surface.

Following the new emphasis on the individual, painters began to paint prominent citizens. These realistic portraits revealed what was distinctive about each person. In addition,



La Primavera, by Italian Renaissance painter Sandro Botticelli

artists used a realistic style when depicting the human body. Sculptors made sculpture more realistic by carving natural postures and expressions that reveal personality.

Changes in Literature Renaissance writers produced works that reflected their time, but they also used techniques that writers rely on today. Some followed the example of the medieval writer Dante. He wrote in the **vernacular**, or his native language, instead of Latin. Dante's native language was Italian. Writing in the vernacular meant that books could be read by anyone, not just people who had been taught Latin.

In addition, Renaissance writers wrote either for self-expression or to portray the individuality of their subjects. In these ways, writers of the Renaissance began trends that modern writers still follow.

Changes in Architecture The study of classical texts showed that the Greeks and Romans used ratios and proportions to give structure to their art. By focusing on ratios, or the relationships between numbers, Renaissance architects created designs that feel balanced and harmonious. Many cities, especially in Italy, are dominated by the impressive domes of Renaissance architecture. The Palladian style, inspired by the work of Andrea Palladio, influenced architecture throughout Europe and in the United States.

As the classical style spread to other countries, it was combined with local traditions. In France, architects combined classical style and French traditions to create a more elaborate French Renaissance style. This style



The dome on Florence's cathedral, built by Filippo Brunelleschi, is a marvel of engineering.

spread from western Europe through northern and central Europe. In Russia, which was strongly influenced by the Byzantines, the new ruler hired Italian architects and builders to rebuild Moscow. The resulting style was a blend of Italian, Byzantine, and Russian traditions. In Spain, during the centuries of Islamic rule, a style known as Moorish had developed. Elements of Moorish and classical style were combined to create a distinctive Spanish style, with intricately detailed surface ornamentation.

Changes in Society The development of moveable type had a profound effect on society. Within a few years of the introduction of the printing press, the cost of books had fallen dramatically. More people had access to books, which prompted an increase in literacy rates. Also, printing made it easy for people to share new ideas. This facilitated some important changes and reforms in the early modern age as people began to challenge some of the structures of established religion and government.

Printing also made it easier to share new information and discoveries, which often led to further discoveries as other people built on what they read. The ability to print maps and charts made it possible for others to follow in the tracks of explorers.

Reading Check

Analyze Effects
How is the influence of Renaissance architecture seen today?

The Legacy of the Renaissance

The artists, writers, and thinkers of the Renaissance produced many extraordinary works that still command attention today. However, the Renaissance spirit led to still more advances in the decades that followed.

The Spirit of Inquiry One of the hallmarks of the Renaissance was a questioning attitude. People were no longer willing to blindly follow tradition and accept authority. They wanted to form their own opinions and make up their own minds. As Renaissance humanists rediscovered Greek philosophy, some were drawn by the tradition of **skepticism**. Where medieval thinkers accepted many ideas without questioning them, skepticism questioned everything. The practice of examining everything to check assumptions became part of the scientific method that transformed medicine, physics, and other branches of science. It also led to questions about religion and faith and prompted an upheaval within Christianity.

There was also an increased curiosity about the world. Over the course of the Crusades, thousands of Europeans traveled to the eastern Mediterranean. Crusaders who returned with silk and spices created a market for these items. Merchants addressed this market by extending their trade networks still further. Stories about far-away places made some people wonder what else was out there. As navigational tools improved, this curiosity led to the Age of Exploration.

Because of these fundamental changes, Renaissance ideas continued to have a profound influence on European thought in the decades that followed.

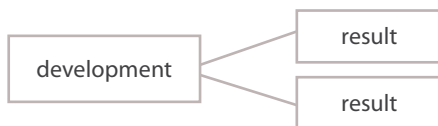
Reading Check

Draw Conclusions

How is the Renaissance emphasis on the individual connected to the renewed interest in skepticism?

Lesson 4 Assessment

- 1. Organize Information** Use a cause-and-effect diagram like this one to identify three effects that developed from the Renaissance sense of inquiry.



Which effect do you consider most important? Explain.

- 2. Key Terms and People** For each key term or person in the lesson, write a sentence explaining its significance.
- 3. Form Generalizations** Explain how the increased availability of books affected the behavior of individuals and groups.
- 4. Analyze Effects** What factors combined to make Europeans curious about other places?
- 5. Contrast** How did Renaissance artists treat religious subjects differently from medieval painters?

Module 14 Assessment

Key Terms and People

For each term or name below, write a sentence explaining its connection to European history from 1300 to 1500.

1. Renaissance
 2. vernacular
 3. humanism
 4. secular
 5. patron
 6. perspective
 7. William Shakespeare
 8. Johann Gutenberg
-

Main Ideas

Use your notes and the information in the module to answer the following questions.

Birth of the Renaissance

1. What economic factor promoted the growth of city-states in northern Italy?
2. What form of government dominated in western Europe during the Renaissance era?

The Italian Renaissance

3. How did merchants and nobles in northern Italy influence the Renaissance?
4. In what ways did literature and the arts change during the Renaissance?

The Northern Renaissance

5. How did the end of the Hundred Years' War and the French invasion of Italy promote the spread of Renaissance ideas?
6. How were the Christian humanist writers of the Northern Renaissance different from the humanist writers of the Italian Renaissance?

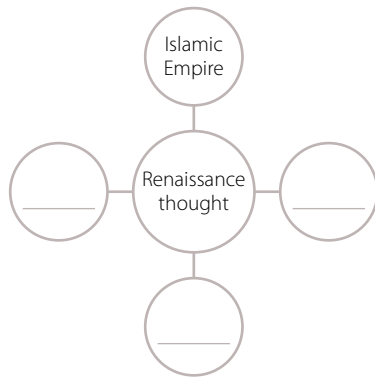
Renaissance Achievements

7. How did the intellectual and philosophical ideas of the Renaissance affect the way people viewed themselves and their place in the world?
8. How was European society as a whole affected by the development of the printing press?

Module 14 Assessment, continued

Critical Thinking

1. **Categorize** Create a web diagram to show the major influences on Renaissance thought.



Which one do you think had the greatest influence? Explain.

2. **Analyze Effects** How did the Renaissance expand cultural interaction?
3. **Develop Historical Perspective** What conditions needed to exist before the Renaissance could occur?
4. **Synthesize** How did views of the role of women change in the Renaissance period?

Engage With History

Reread the quotation in Lesson 2 from Machiavelli's *The Prince*. Now that you have read the module, consider the quotation in the context of 15th-century Florence. Machiavelli saw a succession of rulers come and go in Florence. He lost his government position after the Medicis returned to power.

Think about the following questions:

- What opinion does Machiavelli present about people in general?
- Are these statements based on observations of human behavior, or are they assumptions?

- Do you think his advice would be useful to a ruler like Lorenzo de Medici?
- One reason Machiavelli wrote *The Prince* was in the hope of receiving a new post. Does this affect your opinion?

Discuss these questions with a small group.

Focus on Writing

How did the Renaissance revolutionize European art and thought? Support your opinions in a three-paragraph essay.

Multimedia Activity

Use the Internet to find information on the number of books published in print and those published electronically last year. Create a pie graph showing the results of your research.

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