**The Renaissance**

**Background**

During the Middle Ages, learning and education were not important. Survival and the Church were the focus of daily life. However, after the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, trade and the exchanging of ideas grew as knights returned from the Holy Land. These new goods and ideas sparked a rebirth and interest in learning and the arts.

**Italian City-States**

The **Renaissance**, a French word for “rebirth,” began on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Its location is close to Western Europe, the Byzantine Empire, the Muslim world, and gave them access to the Mediterranean Sea. This helped the Italian city-states of **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, **Milan**, **Genoa**, and **Venice** to become centers of trade and banking during this time.

These four city-states gained wealth and were independent of each other. All the city-states are important, but Florence is considered to be the “birthplace” of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Patronage of the Medici Family**

Banking and trade made several families in the Italian city-states wealthy. The **Medici** family was one of them. The Medicis used their wealth to support arts and learning in Florence. This is called **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**. They supported great works of art to be produced in Florence by some of the greatest figures of the Renaissance such as **Michelangelo**, **Botticelli**, and **Machiavelli**.

**A New Focus in Art**

There was a renewed interest in the ideas of ancient Greece and Rome, due to top philosophers and teachers from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Empire migrating into Italy. Many of the artists, writers, and thinkers built upon the ideas of the classical world. They wanted to improve or expand on those ideas and achievements. They combined the **classical** influence with **humanism**. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ emphasized the individual and daily life. Humanism also stressed individual potential and achievement. Humanism was expressed in Renaissance art, architecture, science, religion, and philosophy.

Renaissance painting glorified religious themes using realistically drawn human forms and new techniques of shading and **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**. This style of realism influenced sculpting as well with an emphasis on anatomical correctness, and subjects placed in more realistic poses. For example, the body of a sculpture would have the head and the shoulders face one direction while the hips or legs would go a different direction.

Renaissance artists’ appreciation for the ancient Greeks and Romans can be seen in the themes. Strong religious beliefs of the Middle Ages still had an impact during the

Renaissance.

The sculpture, David, was created by Michelangelo. It is of the David from the biblical story of David and Goliath. It is a perfect example of the artistic technique known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a method used in the visual arts to describe a human figure standing with most of its weight on one foot so that its shoulders and arms twist off-axis from the hips and legs. And the subject is religious in nature. The statue is anatomically correct, and the head and shoulders face a different direction than the hips and legs.

**Key Figures in Renaissance Art and Literature**

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One multi-talented icon of the Renaissance was **Michelangelo**. He sculpted

***David*** and ***The Pieta****.* Michelangelo’s works were so well-respected and revered, the Pope hired him to paint the ceiling of the **Sistine Chapel** in **St. Peter’s Cathedral**.

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**Leonardo da Vinci** is considered to be the classic example of a “**Renaissance Man**.” He is called this because he was a painter, sculptor, architect, city planner, inventor, and mathematician. Da Vinci invented even an early version of a tank and helicopter! Famous paintings by da Vinci include ***The Last Supper***, ***The Mona Lisa***, and numerous sketches. **Trivia Fact!** Leonardo da Vinci often didn’t finish his projects. He was a big procrastinator!

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**Sandro Botticelli** was another painter from Florence. He is famous for the painting *The Birth of Venus*. Botticelli used Greek, Roman, and Christian themes in his artwork.

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Besides art, the Renaissance was impacted by political writings. A man named **Niccolo**

**Machiavelli** wrote a book called ***The Prince****.* He offered advice to rulers on how to stay in power. His advice often suggested doing whatever it took to stay in power, even causing fear in the subjects. In *The Prince*, Machiavelli said, “It is better to be feared than to be loved, if you cannot be both.”

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Ideas of the Renaissance spread quickly thanks to a German inventor named **Johannes Gutenberg**. As you learned previously, books had to be copied by hand by monks. This took a very long time, and made books very expensive and scarce. Gutenberg created **a printing press with a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**. Books could be copied much more quickly. Most of the first books printed were copies of *The Bible* and other religious writings. Now a person could read *The Bible* in his/her own language.

**Key Figures in Renaissance Science**

During the Renaissance, this new way of thinking sparked a renewal in science as well. Ideas in astronomy, **anatomy**, medicine, and physics advanced to new levels. However, these sciences came into conflict with accepted teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Scientists such as **Johannes Kepler**, **Nicolas Copernicus**, and **Sir Isaac Newton** all discovered scientific laws and theories that directly challenged traditional Church beliefs. These men provided the basis for modern science.