

NORTHERN RENAISSANCE QUIZ

Setting the Stage: Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael all showed Renaissance spirit by an interest in classic culture, curiosity around the world, and a belief in human potential. These ideas impressed scholars and students who visited Italy, by the late 1400's these ideas spread to Northern Europe.

The Northern Renaissance Begins:

- 1450, the population of northern Europe was starting to recover from the bubonic plague.
- The Hundred Years' War between France & England ended in 1453.
- Cities grew and Urban merchants became wealthy enough to sponsor artist.
- England and France sponsored the arts. In France, Francis I purchased Renaissance paintings and hired Italian artists and architects to rebuild his castle. Also in invited Leonardo da Vinci to retire in France. Royal courts played an important role in introducing Renaissance styles to Northern Europe because of Monarchs like Francis I.
- Renaissance ideas spread out of Italy and combined with northern traditions. The northern Renaissance had it's own characteristics, the Renaissance idea of human dignity inspired some northern humanists to develop plans for social reform base on Christian values

[Artistic Ideas Spread:

- 1494 French King claimed throne of Naples (southern Italy), launched invasion through northern Italy. War dragged on, so many artists and writers left to go to northern Europe (safer). They brought the styles and techniques of renaissance and artists who studied in Italy brought their ideas.

German Painters:

- Albrecht Durer traveled to Italy to study. Influenced other Germans (Hans Holbein). He came back and produced woodcuts and engravings that portrayed religious subjects and classical myths. He also painted realistic landscapes and a self-portrait, which portrayed himself as a renaissance man. Emphasis on realism.

Flemish Painters

- Artistic center of Northern Europe. Interest in Realism.
- 1st great Flemish Renaissance painter Jan van Eyck. Used oil paints(new, better b/c doesn't dry quickly & easier to blend) to develop techniques that helped give the paintings a more realistic look. Oil painting became popular and spread to Italy.
- Flemish painting reached peak in 1559- Pieter Bruegel the Elder. Interested in realistic details and individual people. He captured scene from everyday life such as weddings, dances, harvests, and changing of seasons. He also had paintings that produced proverbs or taught a moral. His paintings looked very realistic and had a sense of life and feeling. He is very good at portraying large numbers of people. He inspired 2 sons and 3 grandsons to also become painters.

Northern Writers to Try to Reform Society:

- Renaissance ideas influence writer and philosopher of northern Europe.
- Humanism idea, some gave it more religious view (Christian Humanists)

Christian Humanists:

- Desiderius Erasmus of Holland & Thomas More of England (were close friends)
- Erasmus-many honors from princes, kings, and cardinals for his brilliant writing.
The Praise of Folly (wrote while guest at More's house). This book made fun of greedy merchants, heartsick lovers, quarrelsome scholars, and pompous priests. Most of work is aimed at clergy, but still strongly Christian. He believes in Christian at heart and if all people read and study the bible it will improve society.
- Thomas More wrote book *Utopia* (imaginary land inhabited by peace-loving people). In Utopia there is no greed, corruption, war, and crime. Since Utopians weren't greedy they had little use for money.
- French humanist Francois Rabelais wrote in comic adventure *Gargantua and Pantagruel* in vernacular French (poked fun at society). He believed human beings were basically good and should live by their instincts rather than religious rules. Humor was earthy & uproarious, but he made many serious points on nature of humanity, education, & government.

William Shakespeare:

- Wrote in Renaissance England. One of greatest playwright of all time.
- Lived in London and Wrote poems and plays.
- Masterful command of human language and deep understanding of human beings. Reveals men/women's souls through scenes of dramatic conflict.
- *Macbeth*, *King Lear*, *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet* (tragedies) and *A Midsummer Night's dream* (comedy). One of characters say speech the Renaissance high view of human nature.
- He looked at classics from them for inspiration and plots.

The Elizabethan Age

- The Renaissance in England is called the Elizabethan Age, for Queen Elizabeth I.
- Well educated knew many different languages and also wrote poetry. As queen, patronized artists and writers.

Printing Spreads Renaissance Ideas:

- New invention that adapted Chinese technology. Chinese invented block printing, in which a printer carved a word or letter on a wooden block, inked the block, and it to print on paper. Bi Sheng invented movable type (separate piece of type for each character) but it didn't work well for Chinese because they have thousands of characters.

Gutenberg Invents the Printing Press:

- Block-print was brought from china to Europe , but it was too slow for the Renaissance demand for books.
- Johann Gutenberg a craftsman from Mainz, Germany reinvented movable type (worked better, smaller amount of letters).
- Printing press: this is a machine that presses paper against a tray full of ink movable type. Using this invention, he printed a complete bible. Gutenberg bible: the first full sized book printed with movable type and printing press.

Printing Spreads Learning:

- Revolutionary impact on European society- hundreds of copies, exactly alike of the same work.
- Books were cheap enough that many people could buy them. New ideas spread more quickly than ever before. They provide books for other subjects such as travel guides and medicine manuals. They produced the bible so more people began to read it. People then became more critical of priests and their behavior, eventually leading to demands for religious reform.

The End of the Renaissance:

- Italy & Northern Europe- creative activity. Both regions studied classical culture, praised individual achievement, and produced works using new techniques. The Renaissance ideas continued to influence European thought.