

The Renaissance

Make sure you turn in these exercises by the end of the period.

The Renaissance was a period of time between 1300 and 1600 when the Middle Ages ended and modern times began. Whereas little progress had been made by man during the thousand years of the Middle Ages, the Renaissance brought great changes to Europe. It was an age of curiosity and learning, science and invention, art and literature, and adventure and exploration. To some extent, it was a continuation of the accomplishments and cultural achievements of ancient Greek and Roman civilizations. Many ideas and attitudes of the Renaissance period still influence mankind today.



Directions: Decide whether the following events took place during the Middle Ages or the Renaissance. Fill in the space with MA for Middle Ages or R for Renaissance.

- (1) _____ Europe remained basically unchanged for nearly a thousand years.
- (2) _____ The wealthy Medici family ruled the Italian city-state of Florence. It hired painters, architects, sculptors, and other craftsmen to produce beautiful works of art to decorate the city.
- (3) _____ The small number of universities limited their courses of study to law, medicine, and theology.
- (4) _____ Niccolo Machiavelli wrote a handbook called *The Prince*. He advised the rulers of the Italian city-states to use whatever means were necessary, no matter how ruthless, to stay in power and achieve their goals.
- (5) _____ People thought of themselves as belonging to a particular social class, such as nobles or peasants. There was no chance to advance to a higher class. A person's class determined the type of work they would do and the kind of life they would live.
- (6) _____ Painters and sculptors devoted their talents almost exclusively to decorating churches and cathedrals. They received almost no individual recognition for their efforts.
- (7) _____ Writers produced comedies and dramatic tales for a growing audience of readers.
- (8) _____ Polish astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus constructed a model of the solar system with the sun at the center. His model contradicted the earth-centered theory proposed 1500 years earlier by the Greek astronomer Ptolomy.
- (9) _____ "Extended families," which included grandparents, parents, children, and other relatives, lived together on manors. The labor of many people was needed to work the land.
- (10) _____ Popes, kings, princes, merchants, and bankers sought out the creative services of painters, sculptors, and writers.
- (11) _____ Artists developed oil base paints which could easily be mixed together to produce new shades of color.
- (12) _____ Books were copied by hand at the rate of about two per year per person.
- (13) _____ William Shakespeare, an English playwright, wrote such dramas as *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *Julius Caesar*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Romeo and Juliet*.