The Renaissance
WHY THE RENAISSANCE BEGAN IN ITALY

- Italy had several important city-states in the north and were influenced by trade.
- Northern Italian cities were controlled by wealthy patrons who supported the Renaissance.
- Ancient Roman buildings, structures, and manuscripts, aroused curiosity among Italian scholars.
- Byzantine scholars began migrating to Italy after the fall of Constantinople in 1453.
THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE

- Began around 1300 in northern Italian cities of Genoa, Venice, and Florence.
- Florence was the most important city of the early Renaissance. It is called the “Cradle of the Renaissance.”
- Most famous of the patrons were the Medici’s of Florence.
The Medici’s of Florence

- Powerful banking and trading family that ruled Florence from the mid 1400s through 1737.
  - **Lorenzo the Magnificent**
    - Built large libraries and galleries of classical works in Florence
    - Was a patron to many of the great artists and literary figures of the period such as Michelangelo, Botticelli, and Machiavelli.
The Renaissance began in Literature

- Scholars became interested in classical works of literature, law, politics, & history.
- These scholars became known as Humanists.
- Humanists became interested in everyday life and shifted interest to the individual.
- Renaissance literature led to the development and spread of Vernacular Languages.
- Eventually humanists literature began to spread to other parts of Europe in what is known as the Northern Renaissance.
THE NORTHERN RENAISSANCE

- Educated people combined classical learning with religious ideas. Artists began using realism and painting landscapes and scenes of everyday life.
- Northern humanist writers began calling for reform in government and religion.
- Invention of the Printing Press by Johannes Gutenberg in 1456 allowed ideas to spread rapidly and made books and education affordable
  - Pre 1456 there were 100,000 books in Europe
  - By 1500 there were 10,000,000 books in Europe
- Led to the spread of vernacular languages
Johannes Gutenberg
Printing Press (invented 1456)
DANTE ALIGHEIRI (1265-1321)

The Divine Comedy

- Greatest work was the epic three part poem *The Divine Comedy*.
- It describes his imaginary journey through hell, purgatory, and heaven, and shows interest in human personalities.
- Considered the father of modern Italian
Francesco Petrarch (1304-1374)

- One of the first Humanist writers. Considered the father of humanism.
- First modern poet. Imitated the styles of classical writers
- Wrote in Latin and Italian
- Perfected the sonnet form and inspired other great poets.
Niccolo Machiavelli
(1469-1527)

• Florentine statesman and writer known for his political essays which describe how rulers should govern

• Best-known work, *The Prince*, describes how rulers should be cunning and deceptive to gain and keep power. “By any means necessary”.
Desiderius Erasmus
1466-1536

- Dutch humanist and member of the clergy.
- Wanted the Church to return to simple devotion of earlier days.
- Most famous work is *In Praise of Folly* which ridiculed superstition, narrow mindedness, and abuses of the Church.
- Most widely read Northern European humanist.
Sir Thomas More (1478-1535)

- English humanists who criticized society for its cruelty
- Greatest work was *Utopia* in which he described an ideal society.
- Beheaded by his friend King Henry VIII for refusing to sanction his divorce from Catherine of Aragon
William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

- English writer considered the greatest of the Renaissance playwrights
- His plays were poetic masterpieces based on classical plots (*Romeo & Juliet, Julius Caesar*)
- Writings display a deep understanding of human beings.
Miguel de Cervantes (1547-1616)

- Greatest of Spanish writers
- Satirized medieval life and the Code of Chivalry
- Most famous work is *Don Quixote.*
- Considered to be the father of modern Spanish
Characteristics Of Renaissance Art

- **Realism** was the major characteristic of painting using technique known as **Perspective** (illusion of depth).

- **Chiaroscuro** created depth and perspective with use of light and shade.

- Everyday scenes became common along with religious themes.

- Early sculpture was generally **Idealistic** but became increasingly realistic.

- Frescos were often used to adorn interiors of important buildings.
Giotto (1266-1337)

- Often regarded as the first artist of the Renaissance.
- Most of his work was religious in nature.
- Portrayed subjects in more human fashion and realistic settings than in the past.
- He experimented with *chiaroscuro* to add depth.
- His most famous works were frescoes in Italian churches or chapels.
- Among his most famous is the *Adoration of the Magi* in the Chapel Arena in Padua, Italy.
Giotto (1266-1337)

Adoration of the Magi (c. 1304 Arena Chapel – Padua, Italy)

Arena Chapel – Padua, Italy
Ghiberti (1378-1435)

• One of the earliest Renaissance Sculptors
• He rediscovered the Roman method of wax casting of bronze.
• In 1404, he won a contest to cast the bronze doors for the Baptistery in Florence.
• The doors inspired many future artists including Michelangelo who dubbed them *The Gates of Paradise.*
Ghiberti (1378-1435)

The Bronze Doors at the Baptistery in Florence Italy - *The Gates of Paradise*
Donatello (1386-1466)

- Florentine sculptor who based his works on classical sculpture
- His sculpture is noted for its realism.
- Apprenticed under Ghiberti
- Most famous work is *Bronze David*
  - life-size and cast in bronze
  - first full standing nude sculpture of its time.
Masaccio (1401-1428)

- One of the first great Italian painters of the Italian Renaissance
- His use of linear perspective and chiaroscuro made his paintings unique and realistic.
- He inspired others to copy his style.
- Masaccio died young and broke, and in relative obscurity. Many of his works were lost.
- Probably his most famous painting was *The Holy Trinity* a fresco in the church of Santa Maria Novella in Florence.
Masaccio (1401-1428) - *The Holy Trinity*

*The Holy Trinity*

*Use of Linear Perspective*
Masaccio (1401-1428) - The Holy Trinity
Botticelli (1444-1510)

- One of the early Italian masters
- Born and lived most of his life in Florence
- Painted both religious and classical settings.
- His work was little known until the 19th century.
- Among his most famous works is *The Birth of Venus*
Botticelli (1444-1510)

The Birth of Venus (The Uffizi Gallery – Florence, Italy)
LEONARDO DA VINCI
1452-1519

• Italian born master who was among the most versatile of the Renaissance artists
• Multifaceted genius who excelled in painting, sculpture, architecture, science, and engineering
• First Italian artists to use oil paints which had been developed in Flanders.
• Most famous works are *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper*
Leonardo Da Vinci – Mona Lisa
LEONARDO DA VINCI

The Last Supper
Leonardo Da Vinci

The Virgin of the Rocks
Leonardo Da Vinci

His notebooks consist of more than 5000 pages
Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564)

• Italian master was the most versatile of the Renaissance painters, sculptors, and architects

• History’s most renown sculptor. *David, Moses* and *The Pieta*

• Known for his frescoes in the *Sistine Chapel*

• Designed *St. Peter’s Cathedral* in the Vatican.
Michelangelo

The Pieta
Michelangelo

The Sistine Chapel
Michelangelo

The Tomb of Julius II

Moses
Michelangelo

David
Michelangelo
Ceiling Panel from the Sistine Chapel

The Creation Of Adam
Michelangelo
Ceiling Panel from the Sistine Chapel

Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden
Michelangelo
Back Wall of the Sistine Chapel

The Last Judgment

Michelangelo
Michelangelo

St Peter’s Basilica
The Vatican
Rome, Italy

St Peter’s Square
Titian (1477-1576)

- The greatest of the Venetian Renaissance painters
- Specialized in landscapes and pastoral scenes
- Famous for his use of rich color.
- His first major commission was the Assumption of the Virgin for the high alter at a church in Venice. This made him universally famous.
Titian

Assumption of the Virgin
Raphael Santi (1483-1520)

- Italian master known for his **Madonnas** and **Angels**
- Combined religious art with Renaissance spirit
- One of his most famous paintings is **The School of Athens**
Raphael

The School of Athens
Albrecht Durer
(1471-1528)

• German Master helped spread Renaissance to northern Europe
• Known for engravings and woodcuts religious scenes
• Most famous work is *Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*
Hans Holbein (1497-1543)

- German born English painter
- Specialized in portraits with photographic detail
- Court painter for the Tudors of England
- Among his most famous paintings is *Henry VIII*
Jan Van Eyck
1390-1441

- Greatest of the Flemish masters
- Painted in realistic detail
- Most famous work is the Arnolfini Wedding Portrait

Arnolfini Wedding Portrait
Jan Van Eyck

Detail from Arnolfini Wedding Portrait
Pieter Breugel (1525-1569)

- Flemish Painter known for everyday scenes
- Used rich vivid colors and detail which gave a sense of life
- Most famous painting is *The Peasant Wedding*
The Peasant Wedding
Rembrandt van Rijn
(1606-1669)

- Dutch master considered to be the greatest of the northern painters
- Famous for use of contrast of lights and shadow
- Most famous work is *The Night Watch*
• **Copernicus** - Polish scientist who developed the *heliocentric theory* in *On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Bodies.*

• **Johannes Kepler** - German mathematician who used math to describe the laws of *planetary motion* which explained the Copernican model. He also developed the modern scientific method.

• **Galileo** - Italian scientist who developed the astronomic *telescope* and proved the heliocentric theory. He laid the foundation for modern mechanics and physics.

• **William Harvey** - English scientist who first accurately described the *circulatory system.*
RENAISSANCE SCIENCE

• Rene Descartes - French scientist who applied mathematical processes to scientific problems. He developed the deductive method of research.

• Isaac Newton - English scientist who discovered the laws of gravity and explained the laws of force and motion. One of history’s greatest scientists.

• Andreas Vesalius - Flemish doctor who in 1543 published the textbook *On the Fabric of the Human Body* which laid the foundations for the study of human anatomy.