

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Renaissance

In the 1300s, a new age began in Western Europe. Europeans called it the Renaissance, which means "rebirth." After years of war and plague, the Renaissance began in Italy. Then, it spread through the rest of Europe. Lasting until the 1600s, it was a time of creativity, invention, and education. The new ideas of the Renaissance had an effect on art, literature, and politics.

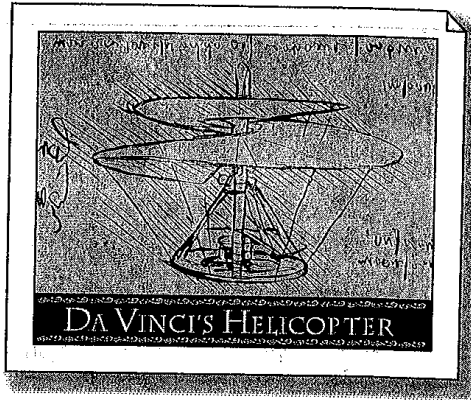
During the Renaissance, people took a new interest in ancient Rome and Greece. Scholars paid attention to classical culture and worldly subjects instead of religious issues. These scholars, called humanists, studied subjects taught in ancient Greek and Roman schools. They learned about grammar, poetry, literature, drama, philosophy, and history.

Individual ability became important. People looked up to those who were well-rounded and could do well in many areas. For example, the famous painter Leonardo da Vinci was also a sculptor, architect, inventor, and mathematician. He is best known for his paintings the *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper*. But he also made sketches for inventions like submarines and flying machines and studied the human body. In addition to da Vinci, the Renaissance produced famous painters and sculptors like Michelangelo and Raphael.

Famous works of literature were written during the Renaissance. Geoffrey Chaucer wrote *The Canterbury Tales*, and the Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes wrote *Don Quixote*. One of the most important writers of the Renaissance was William Shakespeare, the English poet and playwright. He wrote 37 plays between 1590 and 1613, including *Othello*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Hamlet*.

In politics, Niccolò Machiavelli wrote one of the most influential works on political power, *The Prince*. Unlike the political writers before him, Machiavelli talked about reality instead of the ideal. Machiavelli's ideas influenced political leaders for many years.

The development of the printing press in Europe made producing books much easier. Before the printing press, books were difficult to make. Because they were expensive, most people could not afford to buy them. Now, books were more available. Printed books allowed Europeans to be exposed to the new ideas of the Renaissance. As the Renaissance spread through Europe, the Western world enjoyed a golden age.



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Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

1. The new ideas of the Renaissance influenced _____.
- A. politics
 - B. art
 - C. literature
 - D. all of the above

2. The Renaissance began in _____.
- A. England
 - B. Germany
 - C. Italy
 - D. France

3. One of the most important writers of the Renaissance was _____.
- A. Michelangelo
 - B. Shakespeare
 - C. da Vinci
 - D. Gutenberg

4. During the Renaissance, people looked up to those who could do well in _____ area(s).
- A. one
 - B. two
 - C. many
 - D. few

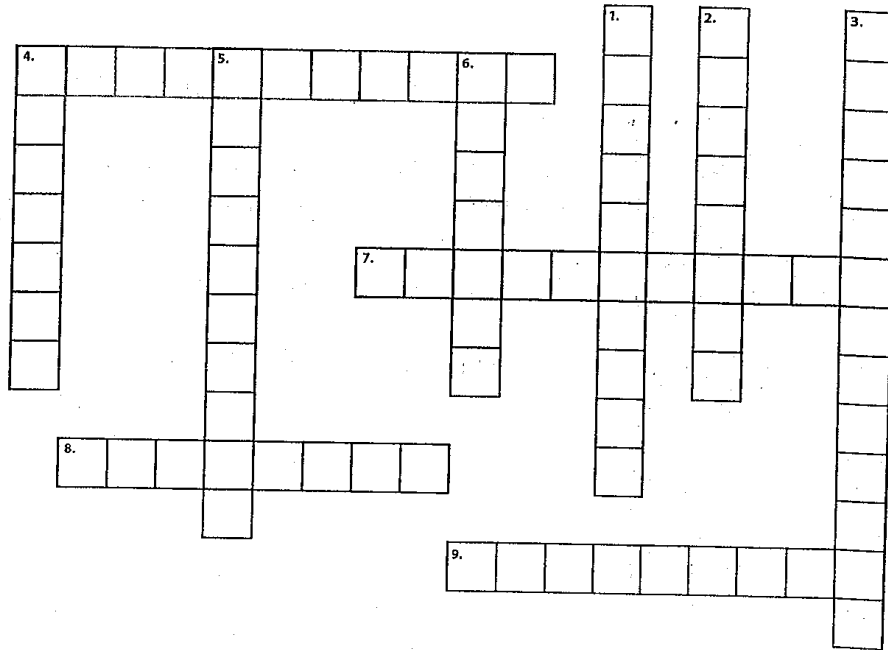
5. Before the development of the printing press in Europe, books were _____.
- A. inexpensive
 - B. difficult to make
 - C. available to everyone
 - D. easy to make

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Crossword Puzzle

Write the best answer in each blank, and complete the crossword puzzle.



ACROSS

4. The _____ lasted from the 1300s until the 1600s.
7. _____ wrote about reality in politics instead of the ideal.
8. Leonardo da Vinci is best known for his paintings, such as the _____.
9. _____ studied grammar, poetry, literature, drama, philosophy, and history.

DOWN

1. Many famous works of _____ were written during the Renaissance.
2. Michelangelo and Raphael were famous _____ and sculptors.
3. The development of the _____ made producing books much easier.
4. The word "renaissance" means "_____."
5. _____ ability became important during the Renaissance.
6. _____ wrote *The Canterbury Tales*.

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The Renaissance

Time Line – Publishing During the Renaissance

Use the time line to answer the following questions. Write the answers in complete sentences.

1300	• The Renaissance begins in Italian city-states.
1456	• Johann Gutenberg prints the first complete edition of the Bible using a printing press.
1513	• Niccolò Machiavelli publishes <i>The Prince</i> .
1590-1613	• William Shakespeare writes 37 plays.
1605	• <i>Don Quixote</i> , Part I, written by Miguel de Cervantes, is published.
1615	• <i>Don Quixote</i> , Part II is published.

1. How many plays did William Shakespeare write?

2. How many years passed between the publication of Part I and Part II of *Don Quixote*?

3. What book did Gutenberg publish on his printing press in 1456?

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Quiz: The Renaissance

True/False

Decide if each statement is true or false, and write "true" or "false" in the blank.

- _____ 1. The Renaissance began in Italy.
- _____ 2. During the Renaissance, people looked up to those who could do well in many areas.
- _____ 3. Before the development of the printing press in Europe, books were inexpensive and easy to make.
- _____ 4. Geoffrey Chaucer painted the *Mona Lisa* during the Renaissance.
- _____ 5. Many famous works of literature were written during the Renaissance.

Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

6. The Renaissance lasted from the 1300s until the _____.
 - A. 1350s
 - B. 1500s
 - C. 1600s
 - D. 1700s

7. Humanists studied _____.
 - A. poetry
 - B. philosophy
 - C. history
 - D. all of the above

Short Answer

Answer the following question in complete sentences.

8. What does the word "renaissance" mean?
