

## Renaissance and Reformation

### Lesson 2 New Ideas and Art

#### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

*How do new ideas change the way people live?*

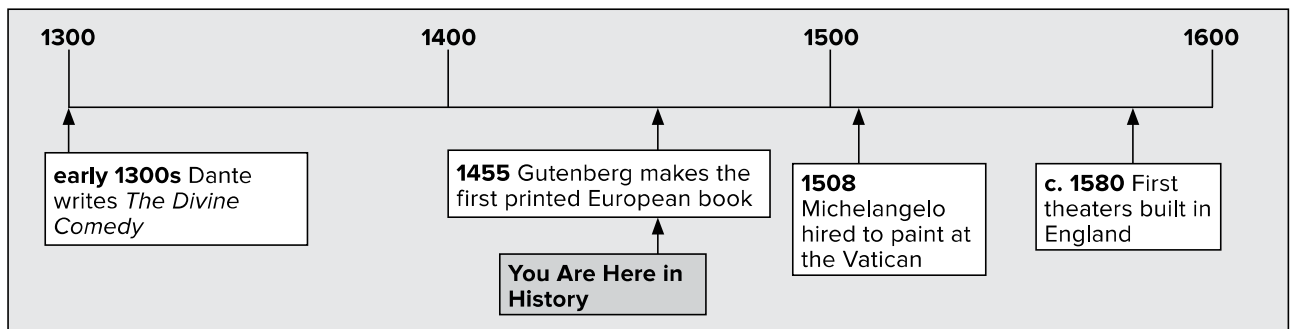
#### GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *How did Renaissance writers rely on the past to develop new ideas?*
2. *How did Renaissance artists learn to make their art look natural and real?*
3. *How did the Renaissance change as it moved from Italy into northern Europe?*

#### Term to Know

**humanism** an emphasis on worldly concerns; a belief that reason leads to knowledge

### When did it happen?



### What do you know?

In the K column, list what you already know about life in the Renaissance. In the W column, list what you would like to know. After reading the lesson, fill in the L column with the information that you learned.

K	W	L

## Renaissance and Reformation

### Lesson 2 New Ideas and Art, *Continued*

#### Renaissance Humanism

In the 1300s, European scholars created a new way of understanding the world. It was called **humanism**, and it was based on ancient Greek and Roman ideas. Humanists believed that individuals were important. They wanted to use reason, not just religion, to gain knowledge.

During the Crusades, Arab Muslims passed on what they knew about Greek and Roman works to western Europeans. Italians found old Latin writings in monasteries. They also studied old buildings and statues to understand what made them beautiful. Humanist scholars studied mathematics, medicine, biology, and astronomy.

Educated people wrote in the classical Latin. They also began to write in the vernacular, or the everyday language that people spoke in a region. When authors wrote in the vernacular, many more people could read their works.

Renaissance Humanists

Humanist	Achievements
Francesco Petrarch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>studied Roman writers</li> <li>wrote about famous Romans</li> <li>discovered old Latin writings</li> </ul>
Dante Alighieri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>wrote <i>The Divine Comedy</i> in the vernacular</li> </ul>
Geoffrey Chaucer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>wrote in the vernacular</li> <li>wrote <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> in English</li> </ul>
Johannes Gutenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>printed the Christian Bible using movable type</li> </ul>
Leonardo da Vinci	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>created great works of art</li> <li>drew sketches of scientific ideas and artistic projects</li> </ul>

In the early 1450s, Johannes Gutenberg invented a printing press that used movable metal type. It could print books quickly. More books were available so more people learned to read. Scholars read one another's works and wrote letters to discuss their thoughts. These changes helped ideas spread more quickly than ever before.

Leonardo da Vinci was one of the most important Renaissance scientists and artists. Most of what we know about him comes from his drawings of scientific projects.

#### Defining

1. Define the term *humanism*.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Analyzing

2. Why might humanism have appealed to people after the Black Death?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Marking the Text

3. Circle the names of two works that were written in the vernacular.

#### Reading Check

4. How did Gutenberg's printing press bring change to Europe?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Renaissance and Reformation**

**Lesson 2** New Ideas and Art, *Continued*



**Identifying**

5. Who paid artists to create works during the Renaissance?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Making Connections**

6. How could studying science have helped Renaissance artists?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Comparing**

7. What was similar about the work of da Vinci and Michelangelo?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Reading Check**

8. What is the technique of chiaroscuro?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

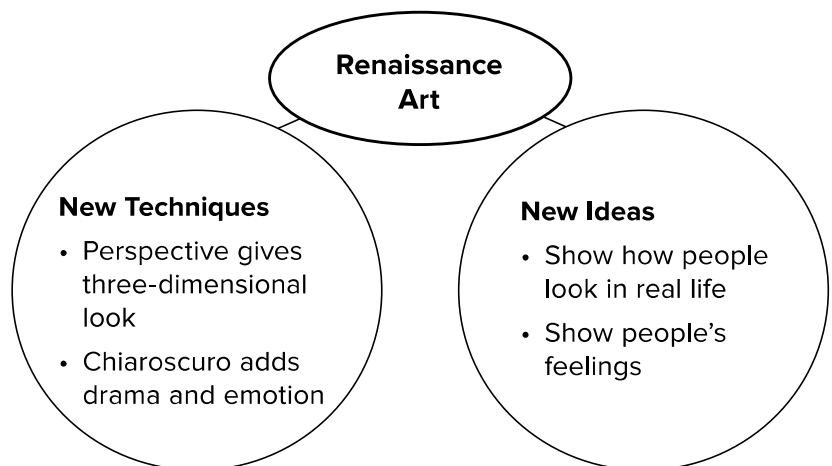
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Italy's Renaissance Artists**

Rich Italian families and church leaders paid artists to make paintings, sculptures, and buildings. Renaissance artists followed examples of the ancient Romans and Greeks. They also expressed new humanist ideas.

Renaissance painters painted in new ways. They used perspective, a way of showing things as they appear at different distances. Artists studied the human body to help them draw more accurately. They used light and shadows instead of hard outlines to separate objects. This is called *chiaroscuro*. *Chiaro* means "clear or light" in Italian and *oscuro* means "dark."



The golden age of Renaissance art lasted from 1490 to 1520. Famous artists of the time were Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo Buonarroti, and Raphael Sanzio.

One of da Vinci's most famous works is the *Mona Lisa*. He also painted *The Last Supper*, which shows Jesus with his disciples. Da Vinci showed the feelings of the disciples through their positions and gestures.

Michelangelo painted and sculpted. He tried to show realistic human beings with feelings and emotions. Michelangelo also painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome with images from the Christian Bible. The figures he painted have muscular bodies that show their power.

Raphael was one of the best painters in Italy. He is best known for a fresco called the *School of Athens*. It shows many Greek philosophers.

Some women, like the daughters of nobles, contributed to the arts. Artemisia Gentileschi was one of the first women to paint important historical and religious scenes.

**Renaissance and Reformation**

**Lesson 2** New Ideas and Art, *Continued*

**The Northern Renaissance**

In the late 1400s, the Renaissance spread to northern Europe and later to England. War, trade, travel, and the printing press spread humanist ideas.

The Northern Renaissance took place in present-day Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, and the Netherlands. Northern artists painted with oil paints. Oils created richer colors and allowed more detail. Jan van Eyck was a Flemish painter. His best-known painting is *The Arnolfini Portrait*. It shows a newly married couple. Every fold in their rich clothes and every detail in the room are visible.

Albrecht Dürer was an important Renaissance artist from Germany. He is best known for his engravings. An engraving is made from an image carved in metal, wood, or stone. Ink is put on the surface, then the image is printed on paper. Dürer's *Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* shows four men on horses who announce the end of the world.

In England, the Renaissance theater was very popular. Playwrights, or writers of plays, wrote about people's strengths, weaknesses, and feelings.

The greatest playwright of the time was William Shakespeare. He wrote comedies, historical plays, and tragedies. A tragedy is a play in which the main character suffers great loss or pain. Some of Shakespeare's most famous works are *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. Shakespeare's plays are still very popular.

**Check for Understanding**

List three features of Renaissance art.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

For each of these categories, name three Renaissance artists.

4. Writers \_\_\_\_\_
5. Painters \_\_\_\_\_



**Explaining**

9. How did Renaissance ideas arrive in northern Europe?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Reading Check**

10. How did northern Renaissance painters differ from Italian Renaissance painters?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



11. Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover the Check for Understanding. Title the anchor tab *Renaissance Changes*. Label the top tab *writers and their work* and the bottom tab *artists and their work*.

Write what you remember about important writers and artists during this time and their works.