Introduction to the Renaissance

- the word "renaissance" is important to understanding
what is happening during this period of time
  - means "rebirth" in French
  - lasted from roughly 1350-1650
  - old knowledge was re-discovered and had a rebirth
    - Greek, Roman, etc.
  - considered to be the birth of modern society

- was a period when society was turned upside down
  - the Dark and Medieval ages were times of ignorance,
    violence, and a lack of 'culture'
    - because people forgot technology, mathematics,
      literature, art, etc.
  - the Renaissance changes all of this and influences
    every aspect of European life

- knowledge that had believed to be lost was re-discovered
and spread around all levels of society
  - education became very important
    - this is the age when great universities were
      founded (Oxford, etc)
    - NORMAL people began to learn to read and
      write…

- trade was important for the development of society
  - with feudalism gone, cities grew and the middle class
    flourished
  - craftspeople could apply their skills to the arts

- the belief of **individualism** was adopted by people in society
    - that people should be allowed to pursue their own goals and make something of themselves
        - artists began to paint/sculpt and experiment with different styles
        - writers began to write
        - architects began to develop new building styles

- possibly the most important changes were in science, math, and medicine
    - scientific discovery led people to challenge the world around them
        - people could question what the bible told them about the world and about life
        - began to question what life was all about

    - mathematics improved all aspects of society
        - people could use this to explain their surroundings and nature

    - medicine was a vast improvement
        - medieval doctors often were more dangerous than the illness itself
            - if they operated, they didn't use clean utensils or base their actions on fact
        - in the renaissance, due to people like Leonardo da Vinci, medicine was something that greatly improved