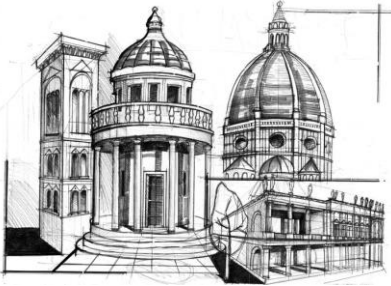


## Introduction to the Renaissance and Reformation



The Renaissance and the Reformation are two of the most important events in human history. Each in its own way changed the way in which we view the world, and both left huge and lasting influences on how we see and operate in the world today. Both the Renaissance and the Reformation were European experiences, but their impact would be global in its scope, and it create a globally recognized culture of inquiry, right to question and value placed on culture and the arts. The Renaissance and the Reformation are defining points in human history.

### What was the Renaissance?

The Renaissance is generally recognized as an event occurring between the 14<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was a time when Europe dragged itself out of the darkness of the Middle Ages and into an **era** of knowledge and culture. The term **Renaissance** literally means "rebirth". It was a rebirth of knowledge, art, and creativity. The conditions were perfect to pick up where the Romans had left off and not surprisingly it started in Italy, where Rome was founded.

Italy provided the perfect conditions for an explosion of rational thought, a revival of art and architecture and **scientific inquiry**. Italy had the right geography; it had the remnants of the Roman ruins to inspire, and it created an economic system that would allow for resources to be invested into the arts.

The Middle Ages was a tough time for many. Cities in the Late Middle Ages were congested, and dirty, truthful knowledge was rare, and people lived short, hard lives. Life in Italy at this time was a little better though. The geography of Italy provided a better climate meaning better crops and more food, meaning that more people had more time to invest in learning and the arts. The physical location and geography of Italy was important. It was a peninsula that jutting out into the Mediterranean Sea which made it the perfect country to establish trade throughout the Mediterranean. The north of Italy was connected to the rest of Europe and thanks to the Romans, there were still plenty of roads that would connect trading centers to one another and the rest of Europe.

The Italians also became masters of banking, and this allowed powerful city states to grow again. Ancient Greece was a country of powerful city states, but these city states were lost after the fall of Rome, and it wasn't until the Renaissance or the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, did city states once again become powerful and influential. These city states would become the hubs or centers of wealth and power and with the inspiration provided by the great ruins of the Roman Empire, they were able to invest in art and architecture and create a new era of great human production and experimentation. Without the Renaissance, human social, economic and political evolution would have been stalled.

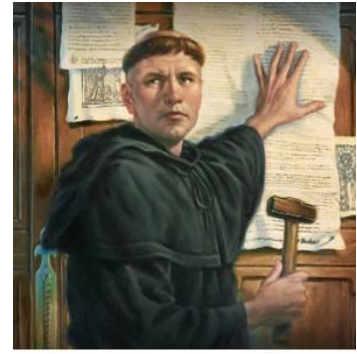
**Renaissance** - beginning in the 14<sup>th</sup> century it was a time of the "rebirth" of knowledge and a renewal of an appreciation of the arts.

**Era** - a period of time defined as having a particular feature, characteristic or noteworthy events.

**Scientific Inquiry** - the thought process that involves conclusion based on facts that can be replicated or repeated.

## The Reformation

Out of the "rebirth of knowledge" that was the Renaissance came a more literate and educated people. Education was still hundreds of years away from the level of education we often take for granted today in Canada. There were schools, but often they were almost exclusively religious in nature and controlled by the church which still promoted their interests and views. The **Reformation** would challenge that idea and is not only seen as the moment in human history where Christianity splits into different points of view, it more importantly creates a culture where people begin to use the knowledge they gain to question.



Martin Luther and his 95 Theses

People in most democratic nations today often have a hard time understanding what it is like to live in a culture or a time when people simply accepted what they were told. Starting at a young age in the public schools that everyone today is required to attend, people are taught not only the basics or reading, writing and numeracy, they are actively taught to think for themselves and question information that is presented to them. Today, in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century it is almost unnatural not to question things. This was not the case during the Middle Ages, and we owe our culture and our ability to question authority to the Reformation.

Although the Reformation began as an attempt to "reform" the church and their practices that were viewed by many as questionable. The after-effect was to create a culture that understood that the advancement of understanding can only be achieved if we do not blindly accept what we are being told, and instead to question, to research and to find out **truthful knowledge** for ourselves. The Reformation would lead to the Scientific Revolution, the Age of Discovery and would lead to a creation of cultural thought and practice of always searching and refining the truth about the world around us for the betterment of **humanity**.

The Renaissance and the Reformation are incredibly important parts of our history, and it is important to not only understand how they came about, but to also respect and be thankful for what they have provided for humanity.

**Reformation** - the time period between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century that saw people in Europe question the teachings of the Christian church and would lead to a split in Christianity between Catholics and Protestants.

**Truthful Knowledge** - the opposite of "alternate facts". Knowledge that is based on informed and factual knowledge rather than beliefs, superstitions, political views or conspiracies.

**Humanity** - the word used to describe the quality of compassion, caring, acceptance and a sense of being together regardless of race color or religion.

Introduction to the Renaissance and Reformation

**Directions:** **READ** the handout entitled; "Introduction to the Renaissance and Reformation" and then answer the following questions.

1. Use your handout to provide definitions for the following terms: (1 mark each)

Renaissance                  Era                  Scientific Inquiry  
Reformation              Truthful Knowledge                  Humanity

Renaissance	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Era	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Scientific Inquiry	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Reformation	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Truthful Knowledge	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Humanity	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

2. On a separate piece of paper, answer the following questions using **COMPLETE SENTENCES**.

- a. In your own words, describe why the Renaissance and the Reformation are defining parts in human history. (2 marks for quality of response and inclusion of details)

The Renaissance and the Reformation are defining points in human history because it created a culture of \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. In your own words describe why Italy had the perfect conditions for the Renaissance. Provide examples as to why Italy became a hub for trade. (2 marks for the quality of your response and evidence of thought and effort)

Italy had the perfect conditions for the Renaissance because the climate gave people \_\_\_\_\_ and Italy became a hub for trade because \_\_\_\_\_.

- b. In your own words, describe what was the after effect of the Reformation and what did it do for human history other than divide and reform the Christian religion. (2 marks for quality of response and evidence of insight)

The after effect of the Reformation was that people began to understand that they could just blindly accept what they were being \_\_\_\_\_ and that they should learn to \_\_\_\_\_, to research and to find \_\_\_\_\_ for themselves.

3. Perspective Drawings - The Renaissance introduced humans to drawing in perspective or representing distance or three dimensions on two-dimensional paper. Use the following instructions to create your own perspective or three-dimensional drawing of a street scene with buildings.

You will be marked out of 5 for accuracy, quality of work  
and evidence of effort

Total: \_\_\_\_\_ /17

# How to draw a city street in **one-point** perspective.

<http://artwithmsgram.blogspot.com/>

