

The Italian Renaissance

I. What was the Renaissance?

A. A changing worldview

1. Reawakened interest in classical Greece and Rome
2. New emphasis on human experience and individual achievement

B. A spirit of adventure

1. Looked at universe in new ways
2. Experimented with new forms and techniques

C. The growth of humanism

1. Study of classical Greece and Rome to understand their own times
2. Emphasis on humanities—rhetoric, poetry, history

II. Italy: Cradle of the Renaissance

A. Italy's history and geography

1. Rome the seat of Catholic Church, an important patron of the arts
2. Location encouraged trade with markets in the Mediterranean and Africa.
3. Center of the Roman Empire

B. Italy's vibrant city-states

1. Each city-state controlled by powerful family and dominated by wealthy merchant class.
2. Florence was a symbol of the energy and brilliance of the Italian Renaissance.

III. Renaissance art and artists flower

A. Reflecting humanist thought

1. Portrayed well-known figures of the day
2. Revived many classical forms

B. New artistic techniques

1. Invented perspective
2. Drew from live models

The Italian Renaissance (cont.)

- C. Architecture: a “social art”
 1. Meant to blend beauty with utility and improvement of society
 2. Adopted columns, arches, and domes favored by Greeks and Romans
 - D. Leonardo da Vinci
 1. Painted the *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper*
 2. His notebooks a testament to his genius and creativity
 - E. Michelangelo
 1. Multitalented artist
 2. *Pietà, David*, Sistine Chapel ceiling among his masterpieces
 - F. Raphael
 1. Blended religious and classical styles
 2. Best known for tender portrayals of the Madonna
- IV. Writing for a new society**
- A. Castiglione’s ideal courtier
 1. Ideal courtier—a well-educated, well-mannered aristocrat who mastered many fields
 2. Ideal woman—graceful, kind, lively, and beautiful
 - B. Machiavelli’s successful prince
 1. *The Prince*—guide for rulers on how to gain and maintain power
 2. Stressed that the end justifies the means