

The Renaissance 1485-1660

Rediscovering Ancient Greece and Rome

- Renaissance means “rebirth”
- Renewed interest in classical learning
- The term was first used in the Middle Ages to characterize the changes that were taking place

The Spirit of Rebirth

- People became more curious about themselves and their world
- Renewal of curiosity and creativity
- Creating beautiful things, thinking new and daring thoughts
- Invention of the printing press in the 15th century led to the distribution of books to everyone
- We still use the term “renaissance person” to describe an energetic and productive person who is interested in science, literature, history, art, etc. (examples: Thomas Jefferson, Leonardo da Vinci)

It All Began in Italy: A Flourish of Genius

- New energy and creativity began in Italy
- Considerable wealth had been generated from the East
- Renaissance began in the 14th Century and continued into the 16th Century
- Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Christopher Columbus and Galileo lived during this period
- Roman Catholic was the religion in charge
- The Church was still rich and in complete power
- Many of the popes were patrons of artists, architects, and scholars
- Michelangelo was commissioned to paint scenes from the Bible on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel

Humanism: Questions About The Good Life

- Humanism—looking to discover answers to questions such as “What is a human being?” “What is a good life?”
- Christianity answered these questions
- Renaissance humanists found no essential conflicts with the Church teachings
- Sought to harmonize the Bible and the classics...wanted to strengthen, not discredit, Christianity
- Searched through Italian monasteries and found writers and works that had been forgotten
- Humanists became teachers of that time
- These teachers taught the aim of life to attain virtue, not success, money or fame

The New Technology: A Flood of Print

- Printing press transformed the way information was exchanged during the Renaissance
- All books had previously been written out by hand
- Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press
- Printed the first book, a Latin Bible, around 1455
- By 1500, relatively inexpensive books were available throughout Western Europe
- In 1476, the printing press had reached England

The Renaissance 1485-1660

- Spain, Hungary and Poland had their first printing press between 1473 and 1476; Denmark and Sweden were equipped by 1482. By 1500, forty thousand titles had been printing...about 20 million books!!

Two Friends—Two Humanists

- Desiderius Erasmus is the best known of all the Renaissance humanists
 - *Dutch Monk
 - *lived outside the monastery
 - *belonged to all of Europe
 - *Since he wrote in Latin, he could address his writings to all the educated people in Western Europe
 - *taught at Cambridge and met Thomas Moore
- Thomas Moore was a young lawyer who had much in common with Erasmus
- They both:
 - *loved life
 - *loved laughter and classical learning
 - *dedicated to the Church
 - *impatient with the Church's corrupt practices at that time
- Moore wrote in Latin and wrote the famous, *Utopia*
- His book gave us an adjective for describing impractical social scheme: utopian
- Moore rose to the top of his profession, was knighted, and became one of the king's chief ministers

The Reformation: Breaking With The Church

- Reformation—rejection of the pope and the Italian churchmen
- In England, the conflicts with the papacy had occurred off and on over centuries
- By 1530, an open break could no longer be avoided
- Strong feelings of patriotism and national identity made the English people resent the financial burdens imposed on them by the Vatican
- The pope ruled from Italy and the English felt he was simply a far off, foreign power
- Martin Luther founded a new type of Christianity...based on personal understanding of the Bible and not what the pope simply said
- Martin Luther founded the Lutheran church. Other faiths soon sprang up, including Anglican, Calvinist and Anabaptist. These faiths and denominations have come to be called Protestant
- The Church needed to be reformed...humanists were ridiculing old superstitions, as well as the ignorance and idleness of monks and the loose living and personal wealth of priests and bishops

King Versus Pope: All For An Heir

- Fight between king and pope reached a climax when King Henry VIII wanted to divorce his wife of twenty-four years
- Divorce was not allowed...especially for kings
- Henry VIII asked the pope to declare his was not truly married to his current wife, Catherine of Aragon, because she had been married to his brother, Arthur, for five months before he died.
- Church law forbade a man to marry his brother's wife...Catherine lied and said the marriage had never been consummated and therefore, was lawful for her to marry Henry

The Renaissance 1485-1660

- Henry wanted to be rid of Catherine for two reasons: She had not born him a son, an heir. She gave birth to a princess and had lost five other babies. By this point, she was too old to give him another child. The other reason was that Henry wished to marry Anne Boleyn and she had been his “favorite” for years.
- The pope was not able to grant the annulment of the marriage because the pope was controlled by Queen Catherine’s nephew, the emperor of Spain.
- In 1533, upon receiving the pope’s refusal, Henry appointed a new archbishop of Canterbury who declared Henry’s marriage to Catherine invalid
- In 1534, Henry completely broke away from the Catholic Church and declared himself the head of the English Church

The Protestant Reformation

- Catherine refused the annulment of her marriage and lived under house arrest until she died
- Henry closed all the English monasteries and sold the land to his subjects
- While the majority of his subjects agreed with the break and changes in the Church, many did not
- Thomas Moore remained loyal to the pope and for this, Henry had him beheaded...even though they were very close friends.
- This was the very beginning of Protestantism in England
- The word “protestant” was first used in 1529. It was applied to a number of German protesters who disagreed with the Catholic decision to have Lutheranism condemned. Later, the word came to refer to anyone vocally “protest-ant” or to those who belonged to a Christian church other than the Catholic or Orthodox Church
- Many felt the English Church was just a copy of Catholicism and felt it was too “popish”
- These people later became known as Puritans, Baptists, Presbyterians, Dissenters, and Nonconformists
- They wanted to get rid of all things connected to the Catholic Church including, bishops, the prayer book, the priest’s vestments, stained glass windows and church bells. They felt religion should just be between the individual and God

Henry VIII: Renaissance Man And Executioner

- The five Tudor rulers; grandfather, father and three children.
- The grandfather was a Welsh nobleman who seized the throne
- Henry VII restored peace and order to the kingdom
- His son, Henry VIII, had six wives; Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn, Jane Seymour, Anne of Cleves, Catherine Howard and Catherine Parr. The fates of these unfortunate women are known in a jingle:
 - Divorced, beheaded, died
 - Divorced, beheaded, survived
- Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard lost their heads for suspicion of infidelity
- Despite his eagerness to marry and his eagerness to chop heads, Henry was an important figure. He created the Royal Navy and provided the means for England to spread its political power, language and literature around the world.
- Henry is considered a Renaissance man because of his love of poetry and his talent with musical instruments. He was a champion athlete and supported humanistic learning.
- He was also coarse, arrogant and a womanizer
- He ignored his child that would become the greatest ruler in England

The Renaissance 1485-1660

The Boy King And Bloody Mary

- Henry VIII had three children: Mary (daughter of Catherine of Aragon) Elizabeth (daughter of Anne Boleyn) and Edward (son of Jane Seymour)
- Edward received the throne at the age of 9; he died of tuberculosis and his sister, Mary took the throne
- Mary was a devout Catholic and wanted to right the wrongs that had been done to her mother
- Mary restored the Pope's power in England and hunted down the Protestants
- Mary, nicknamed Bloody Mary, received her name because she had 300 of her subjects burned at the stake. She married the king of Spain and died of a fever
- Elizabeth followed Mary's reign

Elizabeth: The Virgin Queen

- Was one of the most brilliant and successful monarchs in history
- Her first task was to reestablish the Church in England and rejected the pope's authority
- The pope excommunicated her
- She never married and received her nickname, The Virgin Queen
- Elizabeth knew her strength lay in her independence and never wanted to be ruled by man

A True Daughter

- Elizabeth survived many plots against her life...many from her cousin Mary...not Bloody Mary, but Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots
- Since Elizabeth had no children, Mary was heir to the English throne
- A Catholic, Mary was thrown off her throne in Protestant Scotland
- Elizabeth finally had Mary beheaded after another failed attempt at the assignation of the Queen of England

The Spanish Armada Sinks: A Turning Point In History

- Phillip, King of Spain, had been waiting for an opportunity to invade England. After Mary's execution, he assembled a vast fleet of warships to fight England...known as the Spanish Armada
- The Royal Navy destroyed the Armada
- If Spain had won, all of North America, like most of South America, might be speaking Spanish instead of English

A Flood Of Literature

- Connection of political and literary events??
- When England finally had their national and religious identity established, they wrote like never before
- After the defeat of the Armada, Elizabeth became a beloved symbol of peace, security and prosperity to her subjects
- The English writers represented her mythologically in poetry, drama and fiction
- If the work didn't directly represent her, they were dedicated to her
- Elizabeth was known as a connoisseur of literature

The Renaissance 1485-1660

A Dull Man Succeeds A Witty Woman

- Elizabeth died childless
- She was succeeded by her second cousin, James VI of Scotland
- James was the son of Mary Stuart
- James lacked Elizabeth's ability to solve critical issues such as religious and economic problems
- James wrote books and sponsored a new translation of the Bible
- He was a peaceful ruler
- His relationships with his subjects went from bad to worse

The Decline of the Renaissance

- James VI was succeeded by his son Charles I
- Charles was remote, autocratic and self-destructive
- His subjects had him beheaded in 1649
- For the next 11 years, England was ruled by Parliament and the Puritan dictator Oliver Cromwell, not by an anointed king
- Charles's self-indulgent son came power came to 11 years later, England was very different
- Renaissance values, which were primarily moral and religious, gradually eroded, and Renaissance energies gradually gave out
- John Milton was the last great writer of the English Renaissance
- Scientific truths were soon to challenge long-accepted religious beliefs
- The English Renaissance was over!! ☺