

# The Renaissance and Reformation

## Unit 6

SSWH9

# The Renaissance

- A period of European history (mainly in Italy) from around 1350-1550
- Renaissance thinkers saw this cultural rebirth as a continuation of the Classical Age (Greece and Rome)
  - Included:
    - Art
    - Writing
    - Science
    - Medicine
- View the Middle Ages as the “Dark Ages”

# Humanism

- A system of thought that began during the Renaissance that taught people to value to capabilities and potential of humans.
- This new belief if the importance of humanity conflicted with the church's belief that God was more important than man.

## Renaissance Man

- This term refers to a man who is multi-talented.
- The classic example is Di Vinci who was a painter, sculptor, inventor, and scientist.

# Petrarch

- Seen by many people to be the father of Humanism.
- His work has also been seen as the beginning of the Renaissance.
- **Collected, translated, and preserved a large library of Greek and Roman literature.**

# Leonardo da Vinci

- Seen as the model of the “Renaissance Man”
  - Multi-talented
- Sculptor
- Painter
- Scientist
- Inventor

# Protestant Reformation

- Movement led by Martin Luther, John Calvin and others that challenged the authority and practices of the Catholic Church
- Eventually led to the establishment of Protestant churches
  - Lutherans
  - Calvinists

## Ninety-Five Theses

- Document written by Martin Luther in which he lists his challenges against the practices of the Catholic Church
- Primary challenges
  - Too much authority taken by the pope
  - Selling of “indulgences”
    - A practice in which the pope sold forgiveness for a believer’s sins

# John Calvin

- Leader in the Protestant Reformation
- Started the Calvinist Church
- Believed in predestination
  - People were saved because they were chosen by God
  - Their actions in life would reflect whether or not they had been chosen
    - Good actions = chosen
    - Bad actions = not chosen

## English Reformation

- King Henry VIII led the nation of England to break away from the Catholic Church
- Main reason = he wanted to get a divorce because his wife wasn't having sons for him, and the Pope kept saying no.
- Started the Anglican Church (Church of England)
  - Strong link between the government and the church

## Counter Reformation

- Led by Pope Paul III
  - Promoted reforming cardinals into positions of power
- Council of Trent
  - Started process of fixing the church's abuses of power
  - Defined Catholic beliefs
  - Stopped the sale of indulgences
- Jesuits
  - Group of highly disciplined priest who helped spread the Catholic beliefs back into Germany and Poland