The Renaissance

- What does 'renaissance' mean?
- What happened?
- Where?
- When?
- Why?
- Who?
Why did the Renaissance begin in Italy?

- Italian merchants and bankers had made money trading and could afford to pay artists to do work for them (family portraits, decorate their houses)
- The Popes in Rome were important patrons for artists
- Rivalry between city states trying to outdo each other with beautiful buildings and churches
- Architects, sculptors and painters were inspired by Roman buildings, ruins and sculptures
Largest Cities in Western Europe, ca. 1500. There were as many large cities in the Italian peninsula as in all of the rest of western Europe.
Florence during the Renaissance
Renaissance = Rebirth

- Rebirth of interest in literature, art and architecture of classical (ancient) Rome and Greece
- Flourishing of interest and activity in many aspects of art, culture, literature and science.
Things that changed during the Renaissance

- Painting
- Sculpture
- Architecture
- Science
- Printing
- Literature
- Theatre
- Humanism
Patronage

- A patron was a rich person who paid artists to do work for them
- Famous patrons included the Medici family in Florence and several Popes in Rome
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medieval</th>
<th>Renaissance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less realistic, less lifelike</td>
<td>More realistic, lifelike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat and 2 dimensional</td>
<td>Perspective (more depth, 3D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proportions often wrong (small heads, etc...)</td>
<td>Proportion and relative size of people and objects better</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nearly always religious (Jesus, Mary, God, Bible)</td>
<td>Lots of religious but also secular (non-religious) subjects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Egg based paints</td>
<td>SFUMATO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Painted on wood</td>
<td>Artists studied anatomy (dead bodies)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Oil paints</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Painted on canvas</td>
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<td>Painted on plaster (Frescoes)</td>
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Leonardo Da Vinci

- Born in Vinci
- Moved to Florence
- Apprentice in studio/workshop of Andrea del Verocchio
- Joined painters' guild in 1472
Leonardo paints angel on Verocchio's painting.
Florence during the Renaissance
The Virgin on the Rocks
Leonardo in Milan

- Leonardo moved to Milan in 1482
- Ludovico Sforza became Leonardo's patron
- Painted 'Last Supper' on wall of church in Milan
- Drew designs for inventions
The Last Supper
Leonardo's later life

- Returned to Florence
- Painted Mona Lisa (La Gioconda)
- (portraits of a merchant's wife)
- Dissected bodies to study anatomy
Leonardo in France

- Leonardo moved to France where king became his patron
- Died in 1519
Leonardo da Vinci: Keywords

- Born in Vinci
- Moved to Florence
- Apprentice painter
- Workshop of Del Verocchio
- Paints angel, impresses Verocchio
- Joins guild (organisation of craftsmen-painters)
- Works in Florence
- 1. Virgin on the Rocks
- Moved to Milan
- Patron: Ludovico Sforza
- Inventions: helicopters, tanks etc..
- Painting: The Last Supper
- Back to Florence
- Mona Lisa (or La Gioconda) [merchant's wife]
- Later moved to France
- Patron: king of France
- Dissected and studied bodies (anatomy)
- Used sfumato, perspective etc...
- Notes in mirror writing
- Vitruvian Man
Michelangelo Buonarrotti (1475-1564)

• Michelangelo was a sculptor, painter and architect from Florence

• Famous sculptures include David (based on David and Goliath in Bible) and La Pieta (Mary holding the body of dead Jesus)
• In 1503 Julius II became Michelangelo's patron

• Spent 4 years painting frescoes in Sistine Chapel in the Vatican

• Took over as chief architect of St. Peter's Basilica after 1st architect died
David
The Sistine Chapel
Ceiling of the Sistine Chapel
La Pieta
Michelangelo: Key Words

- Florence
- Painter, Sculptor, architect
- Patrons: Julius II and Medici family
- Sculptures: David (Florence) [white marble]-story from Bible (vs. Goliath)
- La Pieta-shows Jesus and Mary (in St. Peters basilica in Rome (marble))
- Helped design St. Peter's Basilica
- Painted frescoes on Sistine Chapel
- Wall behind altar (The Last Judgement)
- Ceiling (scenes from the Bible, Adam and Eve, Creation of Adam, Noah's Ark)
- Died aged 89 in 1564
Gothic vs. Renaissance Architecture

- Spires
- Flying Buttresses
- Pointed Arches

- Domes
- Round Arches (going back to Roman style)
- Big columns or pillars
Florence Cathedral (Brunelleschi's Dome)
Milan Cathedral
Brunelleschi's Dome, Florence
Non-Italian Painter: Albrecht Durer
1471-1528

• From Nuremberg, Germany
• Apprenticed to an artist at 15
• Learnt drawing and engraving
• Studied art in Italy
• Interested in nature
• Painted landscapes/nature

• Works:
  • Paintings: The Young Hare, Large Clod (Clump of Turf, A nice piece of Turf), Self-portraits
  • Woodcuts, engravings, prints: Knight, Death and the Devil
  • Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse
  • St. Jerome in his study
  • Rhinocercos
  • Patron: Emperor Maximilian (of the Holy Roman Empire)
Techniques used by Renaissance

- Sfumato (smokiness, or haziness or blurring to make it more lifelike)
- Perspective (3D effect)
- Painted on plaster (frescoes)
- Painted on canvas rather than wood
- Proportions better
- More lifelike realistic
- Non-religious subjects
- Oil paints
Self Portraits
Young Hare
Great piece of Turf
The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse
The Knight, Death and the Devil
Saint Jerome in his study
Melencolia
Other non-Italian painters

- Rembrandt von Rijn (Dutch from Holland)
- Jan van Eyck (painted the Arnolfini wedding)
- Pieter Brueghel (painted large crowd scenes)
Why did Renaissance begin in Italy?

- Many ancient Roman buildings in Italy to inspire architects and artists
- Italian traders (merchants) wealthy could afford to be patrons and pay sculptors and painters to do work for them
- Rival towns and cities competed with each other to have beautiful buildings etc...
- Trade with East brought new ideas from science, philosophy, art and architecture
- Scholars of Greek fled to Italy from Constantinople and brought knowledge and ideas with them
Medicine during the Renaissance
Andreas Vesalius

- Andreas Vesalius (1514-1564)
- From Brussels
- First to use a 'scalpel' for operations
- Wrote a book 'The Structure of Anatomy' (1543)
- 270 drawings
Medicine during the Renaissance

Ambroise Pare (1510-1590)

● Wrote 'the Collected Works of Surgery' (1575)

● Discovered new ways to treat wounds, stop bleeding arteries and use splints to help fix broken bones
William Harvey
1578-1657

• English doctor
• Wrote 'On the motion of heart and blood
• Proved the heart pumped blood around the body
Astronomy before the Renaissance

- Astronomy: study of the universe
- Greeks, Egyptians stone age people studied planets and their movements
- In 3rd century AD Ptolemy (Egyptian astronomer) said the Sun and planets revolved around the Earth
Nicholas Copernicus

- Polish
- Set up an observatory
- Concluded that the Earth revolved (a) around the Sun and (b) around its own axis
- Wrote 'The Revolution of Earthly (or Heavenly?) Spheres'
Galileo Galilei

- From Pisa in Italy
- Studied maths and did experiments on gravity
- Read and agreed with Copernicus
Galileo and the Church

- In 1611 the Pope told him to stop spreading his ideas which contradicted Church teachings.
- Galileo continued and published a book in 1632.
- The Inquisition arrested Galileo in 1632 and put him on trial for heresy.
- Risked being burnt to death as a heretic.
- Retracted his ideas.
- Placed under house arrest in Florence.
- Not allowed visitors or to publish his ideas.
Before the invention of the Printing Press

- Books and manuscripts were copied by hand on parchment or vellum
- Very slow and expensive
- Paper was introduced to Europe from China where a primitive form of printing was used
Johan Gutenberg (1398-1468) and the invention of the printing press

- Born in Mainz, Germany.
- Made small metal movable letters (moveable type)
- Spread ink on letters
- Used an old wine press to stamp on paper
Idea of printing spreads

- William Caxton (1422-1491) set up 'the Red Pale' in London
- Printed 100 books in 15 years
- By 1500 about 1000 printing presses had produced 10m books
- Many in vernacular languages not Latin