

# Renaissance Era

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## **1. What are the significant leisure beliefs, values and attitudes as reflected in the art (includes sculpture, photography, architecture, gardens, parks, painting, etc.), music, literature (prose, poetry, recorded dialogs, etc.) and dance of your time period? (6 pts)**

**Art-** The Renaissance time period saw a revival of interest in Greco/Roman traditions and values outside of the church. This was reflected in the visual arts with more secular subject matter and when biblical figures were the subject, they were portrayed as more human. The philosophy of Humanism gave more importance to the individual. The scientific development of perspective techniques allowed artwork to become more realistic. Architecture, parks and gardens also reflected the return to classical styles.

**Music-** Music became a much more common form of leisure as more people had access to sheet music, education and innovative instruments. Renaissance music was based mostly in vocal harmonies. Secular music still dominated as most people were exposed to music through the church, but dance music began to evolve as well. The invention of the printing press allowed music to be distributed more easily and allowed a more diverse portfolio of songs to be common (as opposed to learning a few and improvising the rest). A number of new and improved instruments were developed during the Renaissance. Perhaps the most famous is the violin which was first made in Italy in the 1500s. Other popular instruments included horns such as the early trumpet and the cornett, [stringed instruments](#) such as the lyre and the hurdy gurdy, and [woodwind instruments](#) such as the bagpipe and the recorder.

Harpsichord - This instrument looks like [piano](#) with keys, but when a key is played a string is plucked rather than hit (like with a piano).

Hurdy gurdy - A stringed instrument similar to a [violin](#), where melodies are played on a small keyboard and a crank-turned wheel rubs against the strings to make the tone.

Lute - A stringed instrument similar to a [guitar](#) with a round back. The strings were plucked to make the notes.

**Literature-** With the invention of the printing press, literature was now widely available to the general public. This, along with the creation of a successful and moderately educated middle

class (bankers, merchants, tradespeople), increased the literacy rate among the average person considerably. Some specific examples of literature include:

John Milton: Prose and Poetry. John rejected many of the political and religious beliefs. He adopted an anti-royalist stance against King Charles I, and joined the pamphlet wars. He wrote many polemics on the Church of England including a piece called, "Of Reformation Touching Church Discipline in England."

William Shakespeare: English poet and playwright. Throughout Shakespeare's life was filled with religious affiliation, sexual orientation, sources for collaborations, authorship of and chronology of the plays and sonnets.

Thomas More: Philosopher, Journalist, Saint, Lawyer. More was much sought after as a lawyer and diplomat. He was also active in the areas of literature and philosophy. More was pressured by his family and friends to sign the oath accepting Henry VIII as the Supreme Head of the Church in England while lead him to write a number of devotional and exegetical works.

**Dance-** There were two main types of dances during the Renaissance: court dances and country dances. Court dances were formal dances performed by trained dancers. Country dances were dances where anyone could participate. Each dance had specific steps and movements. Dances were an extremely social activity and still a time where there was not much physical contact between partners. Dances involving the whole group were common with circles and lines formed. Partners generally took turns "showing off" steps while the other stepped in place. Physical contact with the opposite sex was still considered scandalous especially amongst the upper class. Dancing was still quite structured, though becoming more joyous as society began to become more expressive and creative.

## **2. Who were the significant people of art, music, literature and dance in your time period and what were their primary or most notable works? (6 pts.)**

### **Art-**

Leonardo Da Vinci was an Italian artist (1452-1519), whose noblest pleasure was the "joy of understanding". He wanted to understand painting, sculpture, architecture, science and mathematics. His work reflected the Renaissance philosophy of Humanism and captured the experience of the individual and the beauty and mystery of the natural world. Some of his most

famous works of art were Mona Lisa, The Last Supper and The Vitruvian Man. Mona Lisa is famous for her mysterious smile and a landscape serves as the background for her portrait.

Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni (1475-1564) was a very prolific Italian artist. He is most well known for his sculptures of David and the Pieta, and his many paintings in the Sistine chapel. Although David was a biblical figure, Michelangelo portrayed him as an individual, stripped bare and ready to slay Goliath.

Tempietto di San Pietro (1377-1446) was an architect whose work reflected the return to classical style in buildings with his emphasis on symmetry, proportion and geometry. He was the first artist since antiquity to use the three dimensional classical orders Doric, Ionic and Corinthian in a correct manner. Three of his creations were the Tempietto de San Pietro in

### **Music-**

William Byrd composed beautiful secular polyphony (multiple voices layered with independent melodies). Some consider him to be the first “genius” of the piano as well. He also published several song books that could be mass printed and distributed to churches all over England.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ZSBOWTyIrg>

Josquin Des Prez is considered to be the father of most choral harmonies. Many of his pieces were redone by contemporaries, however it is believed that he is the original composer of over 370 pieces. He was extremely creative compositionally and his pieces are written very diversely: some requiring technical precision and others considerable virtuosity. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlB1HR4BgUg>

Claudio Monteverdi wrote the first dramatic opera in 1607: L'Orfeo. He was a key composer in the transition from Renaissance style of music to the much more ornamental and complex Baroque style (which gave rise to operas, sonatas and concertos) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jb2TURdBeEQ>

**Literature-** John Milton (1608-1674) writer of prose and poetry known for: *Paradise Lost*, *Paradise Regained*, *Areopagitica*, William Shakespeare (1564-1616) English poet and playwright known for: *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar*, *The Tempest*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *The Winter's Tale*, Thomas More (1478-1535) Philosopher, Journalist, Saint, Lawyer known for his

books: *Utopia*, *A Dialogue of Comfort Against Tribulation*, *A Treatise on the Passion*, and *The Sadness of Christ*.

**Dance-** Thoinot Arbeau ( Jehan Tabourot; born March 17 1520), Fabritio Caroso (born c. 1526 or 1535), Cesare Negri (born c. 1535). They contributed detailed treatises on social dance that included descriptions of the most popular dances, as well as ancillary information on the appropriate music, ballroom etiquette, and bows. There were three common dances: the Branle dance, Galliard dance, and the Pavan dance.

Specific Dance Steps:

- Reverence - This was a "greeting" step where the dancers would face each other. They would then slide the left foot back and bend both knees to bow to the other dancer.
- Saltarello - This is a lively dance step where the dancer would take three steps forward and then hop.
- Pavane - A slow "walking" dance that gave the dancers a chance to show off their fancy clothes and gowns. It was usually the first dance of the night.
- Italian Double or Doppio - A step where the dancers would take two elegant steps forward and then rise up on their toes.

**3. What was the contribution/significance/impact of their work and how did it reflect or affect leisure beliefs, values, policies, and social movements during this time period? (6 pts.)**

**Art:** Many artists during the Renaissance focused on scientific and human themes. They drifted away from the religious subjects and began to explore the structure of humans and the environment around them. The sciences greatly influenced many forms of artwork. Geometry and physics impacted Da Vinci's countless sketches and inventions, biology and anatomy became apparent in paintings and sculptures, as the artists focused on the muscle structure and more lifelike facial structure in the subjects. The rise of scientific exploration and acceptance was reflected in the art of this time period. While many artists still chose to use religious figures as

subjects, the techniques used and how they were portrayed showed the worldview change from theological to more materialistic.

### **Music:**

Byrd and Josquin's polyphonies added a new depth and textural layer to secular choral pieces. This deepened the spiritual relationship with the church, supporting the diminishing political power of the Catholic Church and growing the public's personal beliefs and relationship with the church. These songs filled people's souls as they declared devotion to God rather than the church's political/power wishes.

Monteverdi's operas and progressive instrumental pieces introduced a complexity of music never before heard. This reflected in society with the rising middle class, more people were educated and could enjoy the "finer things in life". This meant a more diverse pool of people that could enjoy and create new forms of leisure. Leisure was no longer only a luxury of the wealthy.

**Literature:** John Milton: He rejected popular political and religious beliefs. Milton joined the anti-royalist stance against King Charles I, and joined the pamphlet wars. He then started writing many polemics on the Church of England. He travelled through different countries in the late 1630s. He learned their history and culture, and met Galileo Galilei.

William Shakespeare: He was known for his poetry, tragedies, historical dramas, and Comedies. His poetry were lyrically writings of beauty, morality, and love with its moral anguish and worshipful respect of a usually unattainable love. Some of the tragedies were inspired by Shakespeare's study of *Lives* by Greek historians and the authors Plutarch and Raphael Holinshed's *Chronicles* (1587). Others were based on English or Roman history. The historical dramas were based on the English Kings from John to Henry VIII were a tremendous undertaking to dramatise the lives and rule of kings and the changing political events of his time. The comedies were a combination of Shakespeare's like.

Thomas More: More was a Christian humanist and wrote many novels. Based on his writing, More has become a symbol of professional honesty. He is famous for the balanced judgment, humor, and undaunted courage within his writings and life.

### **Dance:**

Dance during this time still represented a social time, however still possessed a rigid feel. The creativity of the period showed through the elaborate costumes one would wear to such social events (in the upper class) and the more dramatic steps involved individually. Dancing remained a serious affair similar to the composure of an educated and proper “renaissance man”, but gained a bit of joyous feeling in the bouncing steps and more complex musical accompaniments.

**4. Provide an outline of your workshop. Include the content to be covered in the workshop, timeframe, roles/responsibilities of each group member, and how you will engage the class in your workshop. (6 pts.)**

Ethan announcer - Welcome everyone to a day of leisure in the renaissance. (brief review of time period and current worldviews) ask everyone to sit at one of the 4 tables

Literature readings during art.-Karyn

1)On His Blindness - Poem by John Milton <http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/on-his-blindness/>

2)Act I prologue of Romeo and Juliet- Play by William Shakespeare. <http://www.william-shakespeare.info/act1-script-text-romeo-and-juliet.htm>

3) Two Poems (*Two short Ballads*)- by Sir Thomas More <http://www.luminarium.org/renlit/moreballads.htm>

Art - stained glass

- begin with gothic style of larger shapes
  
- continue with sharpies to elaborate and “paint” details into the panes of glass
  - Enamels were used to paint more realistic features into the subjects. Large panes of glass blocked out general shapes and the figures were detailed. These pieces were no longer only found in secular buildings. Many people of the upper and middle class used them to decorate their homes.

Once done, hang the pieces in the window - Justin

<http://buffaloah.com/a/DCTNRY/stained/renais.html>

[http://www.getty.edu/art/exhibitions/stained\\_glass/](http://www.getty.edu/art/exhibitions/stained_glass/)

Celebration announcement!!

Dance - Amelia and Ethan

Line facing each other

go in, **Reverence**

spin individually right

spin left

dosido

promenade

group circle right

group circle left

promenade

- Group dance

**songs below**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SvEttR6HTY> very simple (peasant)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-x3g0OIaJ0> At a large court dance (more refined instruments)

**5. Cite and list all the sources for all the resources, literature, etc. that were used to develop your Research Summary and Workshop. (4 pts.)**

Art

<http://www.history.com>

<http://www.metmuseum.org>

<http://buffaloah.com/a/DCTNRY/stained/renais.html>

[http://www.getty.edu/art/exhibitions/stained\\_glass/](http://www.getty.edu/art/exhibitions/stained_glass/)

Music

[http://www.ducksters.com/history/renaissance/music\\_and\\_dance.php](http://www.ducksters.com/history/renaissance/music_and_dance.php)

<http://www.ipl.org/div/mushist/ren/>

<http://classicalmusic.about.com/od/renaissanceperiod/tp/renaissancecomp.htm>

Various youtube links embedded for certain songs

#### Literature

<http://www.online-literature.com/periods/renaissance.php>

<http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/on-his-blindness/>

<http://www.william-shakespeare.info/act1-script-text-romeo-and-juliet.htm>

<http://www.luminarium.org/renlit/moreballads.htm>

#### Dance

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/dihtml/diessay2.html>

[http://www.ducksters.com/history/renaissance/music\\_and\\_dance.php](http://www.ducksters.com/history/renaissance/music_and_dance.php)