**Renaissance**

With the end of the Black Death, Europe was ready for change. Having come so close to death, Europeans were ready to live and enjoy their lives. In addition to this zest for life, Europeans were earning higher wages and able to spend money on wants and not just necessities. This situation began a rebirth (renaissance) of Europe. Europeans no longer had to worry about survival; they were able to enjoy art and education.

If we were to summarize the renaissance in a paragraph (which is what we want to do), then the renaissance is about art and education. Notable artists of the Italian renaissance are Leonardo Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Donatello, Raphael, and Machiavelli. Notable works of art are the Mona Lisa, The Last Supper, the sculpture of David, the painting of the Sistine Chapel, and The Prince (book). Another part of the renaissance that is worth mentioning is **humanism**. This is study of ancient Greek and Roman writings, as opposed to the main focus of study during the dark ages (which was religion).

The Northern Renaissance differs from the Italian Renaissance. Although both focus on art, the Northern version tends to be more dark and grim. The Northern Renaissance is not a complete break from Middle-Ages art. It was partially religious and focused on peasants and day-to-day life. The paintings of Durer and the plays written by Shakespeare reflect this tone (the endings of Shakespeare’s most famous plays all end with a lot of deaths).

**Reformation**

Just as the renaissance challenged and changed the art world, the reformation is a major challenge and change to religious thought. Before **Martin Luther** nailed his **95 Thesis** to the church door in 1517, the **Catholic Church** was the main form of Christianity in Europe. Obviously, Luther has a lot of problems with the Catholic Church, but we are only going to focus on one. Luther strongly disagreed with the Catholic Church practice of **indulgences**. This practice allowed Catholics to pay for the forgiveness of sin, thus gaining a place in heaven. Martin Luther believed that this was unfair, and that faith alone was the path to salvation, and not paying your way into heaven.

A lot of people agreed with Martin Luther, and quit the Catholic Church. They became known as the **Protestants** (those that protested the Catholic Church). John Calvin would follow a similar path by creating his own views that differed from the Catholic Church. One notable belief was **predestination**: the belief that God has already determined who will go to heaven. Henry VIII would break from the Catholic Church as well. His **Anglican Church** in England was not the result of religious differences. He needed a church that would grant him a divorce, so he could remarry and have a son. Thus, control of the kingdom would remain with his family.

Religion is a significant part of most people’s lives. When you tell another person that their religious views are wrong, then be prepared for a fight. In France, violence between Catholics and **Huguenots** (Protestants) was out of control. The king intervened and issued the **Edict of Nantes** (Nahnt). This written statement declared religious tolerance in France. In the area of the Holy Roman Empire that is now Germany, issues over religious differences were not handled as well. A war broke out between the Protestants and Catholics in 1618. Eventually all of Europe joined the destructive **Thirty Years War**. The war originally started out as a dispute over religion, but then descended into a battle between European nations attempting to gain more land. The war ended with the **Treaty of Westphalia** in 1648, but nothing really changed. The religious beliefs of a nation were still determined by Kings, and not by the people. The only change that occurred was that the Holy Roman Empire was broken into smaller pieces. Germany was not yet a unified nation, but it was no longer a part of the Holy Roman Empire. Germany was a group of loosely associated states.

**Classwork 6 – nonfiction Renaissance and Reformation**

1. Imagine you have just survived The Black Death. In a paragraph or two, describe what you will do now?
2. What is the Italian word for Rebirth?
3. What is the Renaissance about?
4. List two Italian Renaissance artists.
5. List two Italian renaissance works of art.
6. What is the difference between the northern and Italian renaissance?
7. What are the indulgences?
8. Explain the violent situations and the results during the Reformation. (1-2 paragraphs)

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