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## Italian Renaissance

Italian Renaissance - started in Italy from 1300 - 1600 the term Renaissance means rebirth a revival of art and learning. Followed on the heels of the Middle Ages the Renaissance emphasized the importance of individual achievement by studying the works of ancient Greeks and Romans.

### City-States of the Renaissance

Renaissance spread throughout Europe it began in the great city-state of Italy. The most powerful city-states were Florence, the Papal States (centered in Rome), Venice, and Milan. Florence was considered the birthplace it grew as a powerful wool-trading post and was home to the Medici family

The Medici family, maintained the city's financial strength and were strong patrons of the arts. 30 years Cosimo de Medici was dictator of Florence.

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During the Italian Renaissance scholars began to study more classical ideas and developed a new outlook on art and life. **Humanism** became the focus of this intellectual movement it focused on **human potential** and **achievement**.

Humanists influenced artists and architects to carry on classical traditions and popularized the study of subjects common to classical education, such as history, literature, and philosophy (humanities)

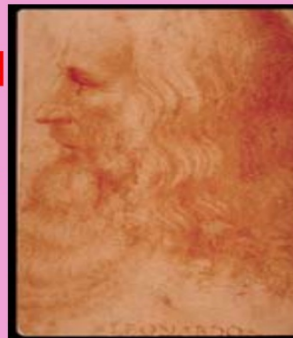
Francesco Petrarca - was known as the first great humanist



After the Middle Ages and the idea of piety and wearing rough clothing and eating plain foods. Humanists suggested a person should enjoy life without offending God. People remained devout Catholics but in the Renaissance society were **secular** - worldly rather than spiritual and concerned with the here and now. Church leaders embraced the idea of secular and lived in beautiful mansions, and threw parties and wore expensive clothes

Leaders like Cosimo de Medici and Church officials during the Renaissance spent huge amounts of money beautifying Rome and other cities became known as **patrons** of the arts.

Renaissance Man - all educated people should create art - the ideal individual strove to master every area of study "universal man" Baldassare Castiglione



wrote *The Courtier* taught how to become such a person

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According to *The Courtier* women also should know the classics and be charming. Upper class women in the Renaissance period were better educated than women in the Middle Ages. Women such as **Isabella d'Este** who exercised her powers

Renaissance Writers produced works that would change and reflect the times. A medieval writer Dante wrote in his native language known as **vernacular** (Italian).

Renaissance writers would also write for self-expression and to portray the individuality of their subjects.

Petrarch and Boccaccio early humanists. Petrarch wrote in Italian and Latin and wrote 14-line poems (sonnets) Boccaccio is best known for the Decameron a series of realistic stories (tragic and comic views of life

Niccolo Maciavell - wrote *The Prince* which examines the imperfect conduct of human beings. It examined how a ruler can gain power and keep it in spite of his enemies. He said that most people are selfish, fickle, and corrupt. He was not concerned with what might be morally right but what was politically effective. He believed that a prince must sometimes mislead the people and lie to his opponents.

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