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The renaissance timeline 1300 -1650

ThoughtCo / Vin Ganapathy The Renaissance was a cultural, scientific and socio-political movement that emphasized the rediscovery and application of texts and thought from classical antiquity. It brought new discoveries in science; new art forms in writing, painting and sculpture; and state-funded explorations of distant lands. Much of this was driven by humanism, a philosophy that emphasizes the ability for people to act, rather than just relying on the will of God. Established religious communities experience both philosophical and bloody battles, leading, among other things, to the Reformation and the end of Catholic rule in England. This timeline contains a number of important works of culture alongside important political events that occurred during the traditional period from 1400 to 1600. However, the roots of the Renaissance go back a few centuries. Modern historians continue to look further and further into the past to understand its origins. The Agosini / A. Dagli Ori / Getty Images In 1347 the Black Death began to plague Europe. Ironically, by killing a large percentage of the population, the plague improved the economy, allowing rich people to invest in art and display, and engage in secular scientific study. Francesco Petrarca, the Italian humanist and poet's father of the Renaissance, died in 1374. By the end of the century, Florence became a center of the Renaissance. In 1396, teacher Manuel Chrysoloras was invited to teach Greek, which resulted in a copy of Ptolemy's Geography. The following year, Italian banker Giovanni de Medici founded the Medici Bank in Florence, where he founded the wealth of his art-loving family for centuries to come. Danita Delmont / Getty Images The early 15th century (probably 1403) saw Leonardo Bruni offer his Panegyric to the city of Florence, describing a city where freedom of expression, self-government and equality prevailed. In 1401, the Italian artist Lorenzo Ghiberti was commissioned to create bronze doors for the Baptistery of San Giovanni in Florence; architect Filippo Brunelleschi and sculptor Donatello traveled to Rome to begin their 13-year stay by sketching, studying and analyzing the ruins there; and the first painter of the early Renaissance, Tommaso di Ser Giovanni di Simone and better known as Masaccio, was born. During the 1420s, the papacy of the Catholic Church united and returned to Rome, to begin with the enormous art and architectural expenditure there. This custom saw great reconstruction when Pope Nicholas V was appointed in 1447. In 1423 Francesco Foscari became Doge in Venice, where he would have art made for the city. Cosimo de Medici inherited the Medici bank in 1429 and began its to great power. In 1440, Lorenzo Valla used textual criticism to expose the donation of Constantine, a document that had given vast tracts of land to the Catholic Church in Rome, as a forgery, one of the classic moments in European intellectual history. Bruneschelli died in 1446. Bruneschelli. 1450, Francesco Sforza became the fourth Duke of Milan and founded the mighty Sforza dynasty. Works produced during this period include Jan van Eyck's Adoration of the Lamb (1432), Leon Battista Alberti's essay on perspective called On Painting (1435), and his essay On the Family in 1444, which should become a model for what renaissance marriages should be. Chris Hellier / Getty Images In 1452 the artist, humanist, scientist and naturalist Leonardo da Vinci was born. In 1453, the Ottoman Empire conquered Constantinople, forcing many Greek thinkers and their works to move west. That same year, the Hundred Years' War ended, bringing stability to Northwest Europe. Undoubtedly one of the most important events in the Renaissance, in 1454, Johannes Gutenberg published the Gutenberg Bible, using a new printing technology that would revolutionize European literacy. Lorenzo de Medici The Magnificent took power in Florence in 1469; his reign is considered the height of the Florentine Renaissance. Sixtus IV was appointed Pope in 1471, continuing major construction projects in Rome, including the Sistine Chapel. Important artistic works from this quarter century include Benozzo Gozzoli's Worship of the Magi (1454), and the competing brothers-in-law Andrea Mantegna and Giovanni Bellini each produced their own versions of The Agony in the Garden (1465). Leon Battista Alberti published On the Art of Building (1443-1452), Thomas Malory wrote (or compiled) le Morte d'Arthur in 1470, and Marsilio Ficino completed his Platonic Theory in 1471. Leonardo da Vinci / Getty Images The last quarter of the 16th century witnessed an explosion of important sailing discoveries in the age of exploration: Bartolomeu Dias rounded off the Cape of Good Hope in 1488, Columbus reached the Bahamas in 1492 and Vasco da Gama reached India in 1498. In 1485, Italian master architects traveled to Russia to help rebuild the Kremlin in Moscow. In 1491, Girolamo Savonarola became the prior of the Dominican House of San Marco in Florence of the Medici and began preaching reforms and becoming de facto leader of Florence from 1494. Rodrigo Borgia was appointed Pope Alexander VI in 1492, a rule that was widely deemed corrupt, and he left Savonarola excommunicated, tortured and killed in 1498. The Italian wars involved most of western Europe's most important states in a series of conflicts beginning in 1494, the year that French King Charles VIII invaded Italy. The French conquered Milan in 1499, facilitating the flow of Renaissance art and philosophy to France. Artistic works from this period include Botticelli's Primavera (1480), Michelangelo Buonarroti's relief Battles of the Centaurs (1492) and the painting of La Pietà (1500), and Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper (1498). Behaim created the Erdapfel (which means potato, or potato), the oldest surviving globe, between 1490 and 1492. Important writing includes Giovanni Giovanni della Mirandola's 900 Theses, interpretations of ancient religious myths for which he was branded a heretic, but survived because of the Medicis support. Fra Luca Bartolomeo de Pacioli wrote Everything About Arithmetic, Geometry, and Proportion (1494) which included the discussion of the Golden Ratio and taught da Vinci how to calculate proportions mathematically. Eurasia/robertharding/Getty Images In the first half of the 16th century, the Renaissance influenced and influenced political events across Europe. In 1503 Julius II was appointed pope, bringing the beginning of the Roman Golden Age. Henry VIII came to power in England in 1509 and Francis I succeeded in taking the French throne in 1515. Charles V took power in Spain in 1516, and in 1530, he became Holy Roman Emperor, the last emperor to be crowned. In 1520, Süleyman the Magnificent took power in the Ottoman Empire. The Italian wars finally came to an end: In 1525, the Battle of Pavia took place between France and the Holy Roman Empire, ending the French claims to Italy. In 1527, troops of the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V plundered Rome, preventing Henry from annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon. In philosophy, the year 1517 saw the beginning of the Reformation, a religious schism that permanently divided Europe spiritually, and was strongly influenced by humanistic thinking. Print maker Albrecht Dürer visited Italy for the second time between 1505 and 1508, living in Venice, where he produced a number of paintings for the expatriate German community. Work on St. Peter's Basilica in Rome began in 1509. Renaissance art completed during this period includes Michelangelo's sculpture David (1504), as well as his paintings of the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel (1508-1512) and The Last Judgment (1541). Da Vinci painted the Mona Lisa (1505) and died in 1519. Hieronymus Bosch painted the Garden of Earthly Delights (1504), Giorgio Barbarelli da Castelfranco (Giorgione) painted The Tempest (1508), and Raphael painted the Endowment of Constantine (1524). Hans Holbein (the Younger) painted The Ambassadors, Regiomontanus and On Triangles in 1533. The humanist Desiderius Erasmus wrote Praise of Folly in 1511, The Copia in 1512, and New Testament, the first modern and critical version of the Greek New Testament, in 1516. Niccolò Machiavelli wrote The Prince in 1513, Thomas More wrote Utopia in 1516, and Baldassare Castiglione wrote The Book of the Courtier in 1516. In 1525 Dürer published his Course in the Art of Measurement. Diogo Ribeiro completed his World Map in 1529, and François Rabelais wrote Gargantua and Pantagruel in 1532. In 1536, the Swiss doctor, known as Paracelsus, wrote the Great Book of Surgery, in 1543, the astronomer Copernicus wrote Revolutions of the Heavenly Orbits, and the Anatomist Andreas Vesalius wrote On Fabric of the Human Body. In 1544, the Italian monk Matteo Bandello published a collection of stories as 'Novelle'. DEA PICTURE LIBRARY/Getty Images The Peace of Augsburg (1555) temporarily eased the tensions arising from the Reformation, by allowing the legal coexistence of Protestants and Catholics in the Holy Roman Empire. Charles V abdicated the Spanish throne in 1556 and Philip II took over. England's Golden Age began when Elizabeth I was crowned queen in 1558. Religious wars continued: the Battle of Lepanto, part of the Ottoman-Habsburg Wars, was fought in 1571, and the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre of Protestants took place in France in 1572. In 1556 Niccolò Fontana Tartaglia wrote A General Treatise on Numbers and Measurement and Georgius Agricola wrote De Re Metallica, a catalogue of ore mining and smelting processes. Michelangelo died in 1564. Isabella Whitney, the first English woman ever to write non-religious verses, published The Copy of a Letter in 1567. The Flemish cartographer Gerardus Mercator published his World Map in 1569. Architect Andrea Palladio wrote Four Books on Architecture in 1570. In the same year Abraham Ortelius published the first modern atlas, Theatrum Orbis Terrarum. In 1572 Luis Vaz de Camões published his epic poem De Lusíads, Michel de Montaigne published his Essays in 1580, in which he popularized the literary form. Edmund Spenser published The Faerie Queen in 1590, in 1603, William Shakespeare wrote Hamlet, and Miguel Cervantes' Don Quixote was published in 1605. 1605.

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