Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Renaissance and Reformation

Section 1

MAIN IDEA
In Italy the growth of wealthy trading cities and new ways of thinking helped lead to a rebirth of the arts and learning. This era became known as the Renaissance.

Key Terms and People

Renaissance an era of renewed interest and remarkable developments in art, literature, science, and learning in Europe beginning in Italy in the 1300s

secular having a worldly rather than spiritual focus

humanism a movement that emphasized the possibilities of individual accomplishment and the almost limitless potential of the human mind

Baldassare Castiglione Italian aristocrat who wrote *The Courtier,* which became a handbook for how to succeed in society

Niccolò Machiavelli Florentine political philosopher and statesman who wrote *The Prince*, which advised rulers to separate morals from politics

Lorenzo de Medici ruler of Florence who was an important patron of arts and learning

Leonardo da Vinci "Renaissance man" who became famous as a painter, architect, inventor, and engineer; painter of the *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper*

Raphael famous painter of both classical and religious subjects and accomplished architect

Michelangelo Buonarroti sculptor and painter famous for works such as the Sistine Chapel, the statue *David*, and the design of the dome of St. Peter's Cathedral

Taking Notes

As you read the summary, take notes on the beginnings of the Renaissance, its ideas, and its art in a graphic organizer like this one.

Beginnings	Art and Ideas

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Section Summary

THE BEGINNING OF THE RENAISSANCE

In the 1300s, so many people died of the Black Death, starvation, and warfare that the population declined. Farmers produced so much food that food prices dropped, giving people more money to spend on other things. Various areas of Europe began to specialize in the products that were best suited to their environment, and regional trade increased.

In what is now Italy, several large city-states grew in the north, while the south was made up of several kingdoms and the Papal States. The south was mostly rural. The northern cities of Venice, Milan, and Florence became centers for commerce. The church, nobles, artisans, and merchants dominated society. Venice, which had access to the sea, built its economy on shipbuilding and trading with ports as far as the Near East and Egypt. Milan's economy was built on agriculture, silk, and weapons, while Florence became famous for banking and for cloth.

Why did the price of food drop? How did this affect people?

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RENAISSANCE IDEAS

As the economy and society changed, new ideas began to appear, and interest in the arts, literature, science, and learning returned and grew stronger. We call this era in history the **Renaissance**, French for "rebirth." The Renaissance first arose in Italy, thanks to its cities, trade, and wealthy merchants.

People began looking to the past for inspiration. They admired the artifacts from ancient Greek and Roman culture. They also became interested in the ideas of the ancient world, which they rediscovered by reading Latin and Arabic texts. These works inspired further advances in science, art and philosophy.

Although religion was still extremely important in European life, the Renaissance movement was more **secular**, that is, focused on this world. A movement called **humanism** developed. This emphasized the achievements of individuals rather than focusing on glorifying God. Many historians date the beginning of the Renaissance to the works of writers Giovanni Boccaccio and Francesco Petrarch. They both wrote in the everyday language of the people instead of Latin.

Why do you think this era is known as a "rebirth"?

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Why do you think it was important that Bocaccio and Petrarch did not write in Latin?

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Section 1

Some humanists focused on society. **Baldassare Castiglione**, (cah-steel-YOH-nay) an Italian aristocrat, wrote a book describing how the perfect Renaissance man or woman should behave. Another Italian, **Niccolo Machiavelli**, was inspired by the political violence of his times to write *The Prince.* It advises rulers to do whatever is necessary to keep in power.

Scientists like Galileo Galilei and Nicholas Copernicus suggested that the Earth was not the center of the universe, which conflicted with the view of the church. Galileo was arrested for expressing his views.

Do you think Machiavelli's advice about politics is controversial? Why or why not?

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RENAISSANCE ART

The artwork of the Renaissance showed new levels of expertise, and much of this works is still greatly admired. During this period, wealthy people became patrons of the arts and used art as status symbols. In Florence, the ruling Medici family and especially **Lorenzo de Medici** gave artists, intellectuals, and musicians huge sums of money for their works.

Leonardo da Vinci achieved greatness in many areas, among them painting, engineering, science, and architecture. Two of his paintings became extremely famous, *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper.* He also came up with ideas for a flying machine, a tank, and a machine gun. Among other things, he designed and built canals and a machine to cut threads in screws.

Underline examples of Leonardo da Vinci's painting, engineering, science, and architecture in the passage.

During this period, artists wanted to paint the real world as realistically as possible. They began to use perspective, a technique for representing three-dimensional objects on flat surfaces. Their artwork looked very different from that of the Middle Ages. A painter and architect still admired today is **Raphael**. He painted both religious and classical subjects.

What was a goal many Renaissance painters and sculptors shared?

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Michelangelo Buonarroti was an accomplished sculptor who was able to make very lifelike human statues. His statue *David* is still unsurpassed. He also painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome, and created many other masterpieces in painting, sculpture, and architecture.

As in other areas, Renaissance building design reflected the renewed love of ancient Greek and Roman ideas. The most famous architect was Donato Bramante, who designed St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

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