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- ◀ Depicting Mary, Jesus's mother in Christian tradition, Leonardo's painting *Virgin of the Rocks* shows the influence of Renaissance humanism in portraying a realistic form, but also takes it a step further to depict human perfection.

1350–1600

The Renaissance in Europe

THE STORY MATTERS ...

The word *renaissance* means “rebirth.” What was reborn during this period? One of the most enduring innovations of Renaissance culture was a new view of human beings. This outlook, embodied in the intellectual movement known as humanism, celebrated the extraordinary individual. The Italian artist Leonardo da Vinci, who was also an architect, inventor, and mathematician, was seen by those around him as a model of this humanist ideal.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- How can trade lead to economic prosperity and political power?
- How can ideas be reflected in art, sculpture, and architecture?

LESSON 1

The Italian States

LESSON 2

Ideas and Art of the Renaissance

Place & Time: Europe 1350–1600

The Renaissance began in northern Italy in the late fourteenth century and then spread throughout Europe. Renaissance culture developed in the unique political, social, and economic environment of Italy's small, independent states. Located on major trade routes, cities such as Milan and Florence were ideal places to receive and spread ideas. Florence, controlled by the Medici family, was perhaps the most influential city. Its scholars, writers, artists, and architects defined the culture of the Renaissance.

Step Into the Place

Read the quotes and review the information presented on the panorama of Renaissance Florence.

DBQ Analyzing Historical Documents Why do you think the Medici family spent large amounts of money on the patronage of the arts in Florence?

PRIMARY SOURCE

“Lorenzo [de’ Medici, shown at right] showed the same favor to poetry in the vernacular, to music, architecture, painting, sculpture, and to all the arts of mind and hand, so that the city [of Florence] overflowed with all these exquisite things. And these arts flourished all the more because Lorenzo, a universal man, could pass judgment and distinguish among men, so that they competed with one another to please him.”

—Francesco Guicciardini, from *History of Florence*

PRIMARY SOURCE

“In the time of the elder Lorenzo de’ Medici, Lorenzo the Magnificent, truly a golden age for men of talent, there flourished an artist called Alessandro ... Botticelli.

... [Botticelli] carried out many works in the house of the Medici for Lorenzo the Magnificent, notably a life-size Pallas [Athena] on a shield wreathed with fiery branches, and a St Sebastian [a painting created for Florence’s Santa Maria Maggiore church]. ... As an old man, Botticelli found himself so poor that if Lorenzo de’ Medici ... and then his friends and other worthy men who loved him for his talent had not come to his assistance, he would have almost died of hunger.”

—Giorgio Vasari, from *The Lives of the Artists*

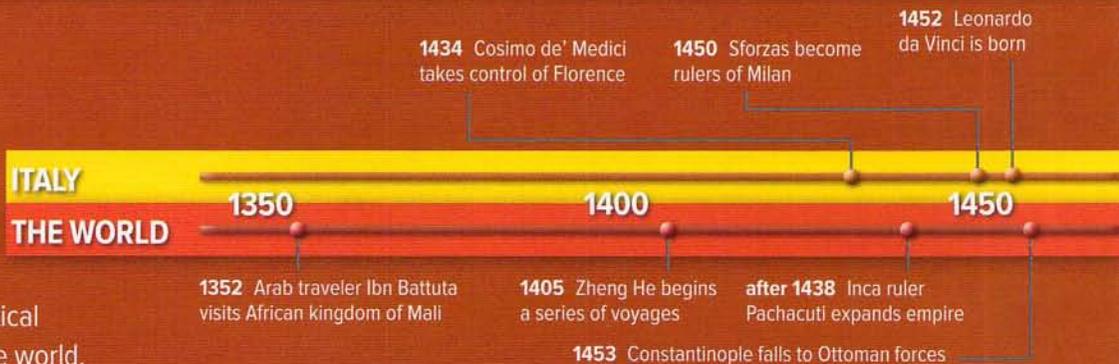


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Step Into the Time

DETERMINING CAUSE AND EFFECT

Research one or more publications from the time line. Write a short essay explaining how the publication(s) increased political unrest in Italy and around the world.



FIorenZA



Panorama of Florence c. 1500

Cosimo de' Medici was a patron of architect Filippo Brunelleschi, who designed the Florence cathedral's dome.

Textile makers and bankers, such as the Medici family, dominated the economy of Florence.

In the Medici Palace Chapel, Benozzo Gozzoli's *Procession of the Magi* included portraits of his patrons.

Botticelli included Medici portraits in his *Adoration of the Magi* in the church of Santa Maria Novella.

Dante, Florence's greatest poet, claimed its people were motivated by envy and pride.

1455 Gutenberg Bible becomes the earliest book printed from moveable type in Europe

1492 Lorenzo de' Medici dies

1494 French king Charles VIII leads an army into Italy

1513 Machiavelli's *The Prince* is completed

1527 German troops of Charles I pillage Rome

1559 Italian Wars end

1500

1550

1600

1492 Columbus reaches the West Indies

1498 Portuguese expedition under Vasco da Gama reaches India

1520 Süleyman I becomes Ottoman sultan

1530 Babur, first Mogul emperor of India, dies at Agra

1558 Elizabeth I becomes queen of England

1571 Christian forces defeat Ottomans in naval battle at Lepanto