Name: _____

Date: _____

THE RENAISSANCE
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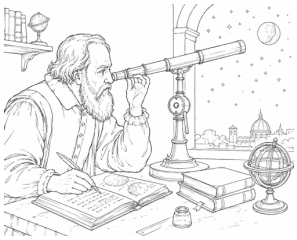
Humanism

During the late 1300s, some European scholars began to turn their attention away from questions of church doctrine or faith. Like many ancient Greek philosophers, they began to value evidence and the use of reason, the power of the mind to think, understand, and form judgments. The scholars promoted the investigation of nature through observation. This philosophy later became known as humanism because the scholars stressed human innovation.

Before the Renaissance, many medieval Europeans believed that important knowledge had already been settled by ancient authorities and church teachings. Challenging accepted ideas could bring criticism or punishment. During the Renaissance, scholars increasingly tested these beliefs, helping lay the groundwork for the Scientific Revolution.

Galileo

Galileo Galilei was an Italian scientist who learned by observation. In Galileo's time, most educated people believed that all heavenly bodies revolved around the Earth. Galileo constructed a telescope and observed four moons orbiting Jupiter. When Galileo published his discovery, a church court called the Inquisition found the scientist guilty of heresy. Heresy is an opinion that contradicts the official teaching of the church. The scientist was forced to publicly renounce his findings and was sentenced to house arrest for the last nine years of his life. A deeply religious man who respected his Christian faith, Galileo submitted to the sentence, but he continued to write and study from his home.



The Classics

The humanists studied the writings of the ancient Greeks and Romans. They called these works the classics, a term that meant the highest quality. In classical literature, Renaissance scholars found ideas about human nature and reason that aligned with their own thinking. Inspired by the ancient Greeks and Romans, Renaissance artists recreated classical styles in art, literature, and architecture.

The influence of humanism extended beyond science. In art and sculpture, humanism encouraged more realistic portrayals of people and nature. Before the Renaissance, European education focused heavily on religious authority and formal logic, the use of strict rules of reasoning to reach conclusions. Humanist educators stressed rhetoric, the art of speaking and writing effectively, ethics, the study of right and wrong, and the classics. They believed education should prepare people for active life in society, government, and civic leadership.

In 1459, humanist Battista Guarino wrote, "Each species has been allotted a peculiar and instinctive gift. To horses, galloping comes naturally; to birds, flying. But the desire to learn belongs to humankind."

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Fill in the Blanks

During In the late 1300s, many European scholars turned to h__m__n__sm, using r__a__on and o__s__r__a__i__n to investigate n__t__re. Unlike medieval reliance on r__l__g__o__s authority, Renaissance thinkers c__a__l__n__ed many accepted ideas, laying the groundwork for the S__i__n__i__ic Revolution.

For example, Galileo used o__s__r__a__i__n to prove that not all heavenly bodies r__v__l__ed around the E__r__h. When a church court called the I__q__i__i__i__n found him guilty of h__r__sy, G__l__l__o was forced to r__n__u__ce his findings and faced house a__r__st.

Humanists also studied the c__a__si__s, looking for *i__s__i__a__i__n from the G__ee__s and the R__m__ns. They replaced medieval formal logic with r__e__o__ic and e__h__cs to prepare citizens for civic leadership, believing the desire to learn uniquely belongs to humankind.

Answer in Complete Sentences

1. What were the classics? Why did the humanists study the classics?

_____

_____

_____

_____

2. How did Renaissance thinkers challenge traditional beliefs?

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*3. How did humanism inspire Renaissance art?

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*4. Explain Battista Guarino's quote. (You do not have to write out the quote.)

_____

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_____

_____

*A higher order learning question. Any reasonable answer will be accepted.

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