Chapter Guide #21: The Renaissance in Quattrocento Italy

**CONTEXT:**

*“By the contemplation of beauty, the soul could progress from the love of the material to the love of the abstract, and then to the love of the spiritual.”* Ficino

*". . . the excellence of beauty of every work of art is due to the observance of measure."* Plato

During the fifteenth century, or Quattrocento, Florence became the acknowledged center of the Renaissance – the rebirth of classical learning, literature, and art. Humanists revived the ancient Greek ideal that “man is the measure of all things.” They believed that contact with the classical past would enrich their own culture by promoting civic responsibility, encouraging artistic creativity, and rewarding individual excellence.

1:  advancement of humanistic and scientific knowledge

2:  the discovery of the new world by navigating the globe

3:  continued growth of cities

4:  expanding wealth of the merchant class

5:  expansion of national states

6:  unparalleled productivity in the arts

7:  merchant and artisan class challenged the entrenched position of nobility

8:  Church became a military and political force prone to abuses of power and wealth

**ART WORK CARDS: 3D (Yellow) 2D (Red) Architecture (Green)**

3D

Brunelleschi & Ghiberti’s Sacrifice of Isaac

Ghiberti’s Gates of Paradise

Donatello’s Saint Mark

Donatello’s David

Donatello’s Gattamelata

Verrocchio’s David

2D

Gentile da Fabriano’s Adoration of the Magi

Masaccio’s Tribute Money

Masaccio’s Holy Trinity

Fra Angelico’s Annunciation

Fra Filippo Lippi’s Madonna and Child

Domenico Ghilandaio’s Giovanna Tornabuoni

Paolo Uccello’s Battle of San Romano

Sandro Botticelli’s Birth of Venus

Sandro Botticelli’s Primavera

Perugino’s Christ Delivering the Keys of the Kingdom of Saint Peter

Luca Signorelli’s The Damned Cast into Hell

PIero della Francesca’s Battista and Federico

Andrea Mantegna’s Ceiling of Camera Picta

Andrea Mantegna’s Foreshortened Christ

Architecture

Brunelleschi’s Dome of Florence Cathedral

Brunelleschi’s Santo Spirito

Brunelleschi’s Pazzi Chapel

Alberti’s Santa Maria Novella

Alberti’s Sant’ Andrea

## VOCABULARY:

Renaissance

academy

orthogonal

Quartrocento

Classical Humanism

Scientific Naturalism

Neo-Platonic

lantern

trompe l’oeil

allegory

perspective

atmospheric perspective

pictorial relief

rusticated stone

ratio

chiaroscuro

quatrefoil

optical reality

site specific painting

## TIMELINE:

## 1417 End of Great Schism

## 1445 Invention of the moveable metal type by Gutenberg

## 1453 Constantinople falls to Ottoman Turks

## 149-1492 Lorenzo de’ Medici

## 1494 Medici family expelled from Florence

## 1499 France captures Milan

**CONTEXT CARDS: Blue**

Early Italian Renaissance/Quattrocento Italy

**HUMANISM**

1:  rediscover the beauties of life in the here and now (not the hereafter)

2:  reaffirmation of man: "nothing more wonderful than man"

3:  invention of printing press (Gutenberg press in 1456)

4:  investigation of ancient texts and writers from Classical Greece and Rome

5:  promoted a revival of interest in the affairs of the everyday world

6:  reasserted the faith of men and women in themselves

7:  reinforce role of the individuals in all spheres

**COSIMO MEDICI ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

1:  established the florin as the most stable currency in Europe

2:  wool trade and fabric production with papal funds

3:  lenders of money to capitals of Europe

4:  serious student of Ancient Greek and Roman culture, particularly Plato

5:  commissioned works of art - founded and supported his “Neoplatonic Academy”

**NEO-PLATONIC ACADEMY**

1:  the eternal absolutes of truth, goodness and beauty existed only in the divine mind.

2:  such absolutes are not wholly within human grasp

3:  mortals, by learning, observation and creativity, could catch occasional glimpses of them

4:  truth by pursuing scientific knowledge

5:  goodness through performing and observing good deeds and through the experience of

love first physical then spiritual

6:  beauty through nature and experiencing great works of art