

Study Questions to accompany
UNIVERSAL HISTORY OF THE WORLD
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THE RENAISSANCE
Volume 7, 1277 A.D. – 1603 A.D.

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I. THE SOUND OF BELLS AND TRUMPETS (1300-1600) pp. 524

Map: Renaissance Italy

Timeline: Francesco Petrarch sparks an interest in Renaissance humanism in 1336;

A. Introduction – pp. 524-525

- The period of time you will be studying over the next few weeks is called the “Renaissance.” What is the definition of *renaissance*?

- Why is this name appropriate for this period in history?

The Renaissance is considered the bridge between the Middle Ages and the Modern Times in Europe. According to A History of the World,

“The new era known as the Renaissance was not a sudden ‘rebirth’ but a gradual process over a long period of time.

In Medieval Europe the individual thought of himself as a part of a unit. He was a member of a universal church. He belonged to a certain manor. He fought to protect his town if he was a townsman. He might belong to a certain guild. The individual was thus a part of social, political and economic units.

Gradually, however, men did break away from the manor and became free laborers on the farm, or they went into the villages to work or to set up shops of their own. The minds of some men were stirred to doubt the ideas that had been accepted unchallenged for generation; they began to think for themselves and to work out new theories and ideas concerning the world.”

B. A Time of Turmoil – p. 525 – 527

- Name the two warring groups in Italy.

C. The Dance of Death – p. 527 – 529

- If you are interested, you can read more about the Bubonic Plague (or the Black Death) in an encyclopedia.
- Look up the term “bourgeoisie.” After reading this section (“The Dance of Death”), who do you think this term would apply to?
- How did the guildsmen’s desire for everything the nobles had lead to the expansion of art, architecture, and education?
- What contributions did Francesco Petrarch make to the dawning of the Renaissance?
- Define “humanism” as it relates to the Renaissance.

D. The New Artists – p. 529

- Florence, Italy is often considered the birthplace of the Renaissance, but it was not the only city that flourished. List some of the other Italian cities mentioned in this section .
- How did the position of artists and scholars change during the Renaissance?
- What invention made the increase in learning and education easier? Do some research to find out who invented this item.
- Why could the Renaissance be considered a contrast of opposites? (reread the last paragraph of this section)

E. Professional Warriors – p. 529 – 530

- Who were condottieri?

- Did the Renaissance do away with the poor?

II. FLORENCE, FIRST CITY OF THE RENAISSANCE (1200-1480) – pp. 531

A. Introduction – p. 531 –

- What types of things was the city of Florence known?

B. The Merchants' Republic – p. 532-534

- What are some of the ways that the merchants of Florence worked to build the city's strength?

- What type of government did they have?

- Several great artists, architects, and sculptors are mentioned throughout this volume. Make a separate report or a table on these artists, including pictures of their work. Tell what type of work they did (painting, sculpting, architecture, etc.), their most important work(s), and anything interesting or notable about them or their style. Leave room to expand the table or report to add other artists. The artists listed in this section:

- Giotto da Bondone
- Masaccio
- Andrea del Castagno
- Paolo Uccello
- Lorenzo Ghiberti
- Donatello
- Brunelleschi

- Who were the Medicis and why were they important to the history of Florence?

C. Cosimo de' Medici – p. 534 -535

- Describe Cosimo's style of ruling Florence.
- Do you think this is an effective way of ruling? Why or why not?
- How did Cosimo improve Florence (education, artists, etc.)
- Two more artist to add to your table:
 - Fra Angelico
 - Fra Filippo Lippi
 - Donatello

D. Piero de' Medici – p. 535 – 537

- What changed the Florentine citizens' opinion of the marriage of Lorenzo to Clarice Orsini?
- What type of leader was Lorenzo de' Medici?

E. Lorenzo de' Medici – p. 537 – 539

- Why could the plot to murder Lorenzo and Guiliano de' Medici be considered a "comedy of errors?"
- Although the plot had partially failed, it caused the loss of many in the city of Florence, and was soon to cause more troubles.

F. Lorenzo's Daring – p. 539

- How did Lorenzo save Florence?

III. FLORENCE IN THE GOLDEN AGE (1469-1498) pp. 540 –

A. Introduction – p. 540 – 543

- How did Lorenzo de' Medici contribute to the growth of Florence into Italy's "capital of scholarship of art?"

- Describe the process by which a boy became an artist. (Be sure to use terms such as *bottega*, apprentice, master, guild, etc.)

- Add the following artist to your table:

- Luca della Robbia
- Leonardo da Vinci
- Michaelangelo
- Sandro Botticelli

B. Leonardo and Lorenzo – p. 543-544

- What did Leonardo da Vinci mean when he said, “Florence is too old-fashioned. Lorenzo has taught the whole city to look backward?” (hint: remember the humanists and what they taught and studied)

C. Savonarola’s Preaching – p. 544 – 545

- What were some of the complaints against the rule of Lorenzo? (be sure to include the grievances from all of the different classes)

- Who was Savonarola and why did he dislike Lorenzo de’Medici?

- What types of things did Lorenzo worry about while on what Savonarola predicted would be his death bed?

D. The Sword of the Lord – p. 545-547

- How did life in Florence change under the rule of Savonarola?

E. Death of Savonarola – p. 547

- Did things improve under Savonarola’s leadership?

- What happened to Savonarola when he fell from the good will of the people of Florence?
- Who painted the “Mona Lisa?” Find a picture of the “Mona Lisa.”
- How did the rule of Savonarola contribute the decline on the “Golden Age” in Florence? (think about what the artists were doing and where they were going and why)

IV. MILAN, CITY OF SPLENDOR AND WAR (1277-1515) pp. 548 –

A. Introduction

- What was Milan noted for?
- Do research on the history of armor. If you wish, find a drawing or sketch a picture of a suit of armor and label the parts of the armor.
- How did the rulers of Milan keep revolts under control?
- There were two families who were rulers of Milan: the Visconti and, later, the Sforza. Describe some of the rulers from the Visconti family listed in the section – how they ruled, what they were noted for.

B. The Timid Conqueror – p. 550 – 551

- What act on the part of Gian Galeazzo proved that he was not the cowardly viscount many considered him to be?
- How did Gian Galeazzo’s method of ruling Milan differ from the method of his forefathers? Give some specific examples of how he improved life in the city.

C. A Cowardly Duke – p. 551 – 553

- Who were the two sons of Gian Galeazzo and how did they differ?
- Why was Filippo Maria always hiring new generals to command his armies?
- Although he was known as a strong and strict general, how did Francesco Sforza win the loyalty of his men?
- Did Sforza have an ulterior motive in mind when he fought for Filippo Maria? If so, what was it?

*A side note: if you will notice through the volumes you have been reading, there seems to always be a continuous drift from good and wise rulers to cruel and wicked rulers. Often, it can change just from one generation to the next. Many times the sons of a ruler would turn out to be complete opposites from each other, or from their father. Can you think of any similar situations like this in the Bible?

Likewise, think about some of the things that have been mentioned in the volumes that made a ruler great and respected (or what made them hated and repulsive). What can you learn from the character and characteristics of the famous (and infamous) rulers of the past?

D. Daughter or Dukedom? - p. 553 –

- How was Filippo Maria backed into allowing his daughter to marry Francesco Sforza?
- Did the people welcome Francesco as their leader once Filippo Maria died?
- How did Francesco react to their determination to be free?
- When the people begged him to return as their duke, how did he rule the dukedom?
- What changes came when Francesco's son, Galeazzo Sforza, inherited his dukedom?

E. Ludovico the Moor – p. 553 – 554

- Galeazzo worked toward making the Castello Sforzesco the most magnificent castle in Italy. He also sponsored many pageants and processions. What other types of displays did he provide, and why?

- How did Lodovico come to rule Milan after Galeazzo's murder?
- Describe Lodovico's rule as the regent overseeing the young duke.
- Arranged marriages were common in this era. What are some reasons that you can think of that marriages may have been arranged?

F. Lodovico and Beatrice – pp. 554 – 556

- How did Beatrice change after her arrival in Milan for her marriage to Lodovico?
- What famous artist came to Milan to work for Lodovico? What were some of the projects he worked on?
- Using an encyclopedia or internet sources, find a copy of daVinci's painting, "The Last Supper."

G. The French Invasions – p. 556 – 557

- How did the French become involved in the affairs of the people of Milan?
- Why did Lodovico no longer need the help of the French when they came back through Milan?
- How did Lodovico's changing from side to side come back to hurt him when the French came back in 1499?
- Where did Lodovico die?
- After Lodovico's death, the French invited Lodovico's son, Massimiliano, to rule in Milan. Describe his rule.
- How long did Massimiliano's rule last?
- How had the fighting among the leading families in Milan contributed to the city's downfall?

V. GENTLEMEN, SCHOLARS, AND PRINCES (1400-1507) pp. 558 -

A. Introduction

- What was *Orlando Innamorato*? Who was its original author?
- What did Lodovico Ariosto do to the poem about Orlando? What was his poem called?

B. The Duke's Schoolmaster – p. 560 – 561

- Who was Guarino da Varona and what important contributions did he make to Ferrara?
- How did Alfonso divide his powers between himself and his wife, Lucretia?

C. First Lady of the World – p. 561 – 563

- Describe Isabella d'Este.
- How did she come to be named *la prima donna del mondo*?
- Who ended up being the real ruler of Mantua?
- What was different about the way Vittorino da Feltre insisted on raising young noblemen? Were his methods successful?

D. A Well-Bred Villain – p. 563 – 564

- Define “well-bred villain” in your own words.
- Who was Italy's most famous “well-bred villain?”
- How did Sigisimundo Malatesta defile the newly rebuilt cathedral and the church?
- Contrast Duke Federigo da Montefeltro's rule of Urbino with Sigisimundo's rule of Rimini.

E. Rules for Gentlemen – p. 564 – 566

- Baldassare Castiglione wrote a book called *The Book of the Courtier*. What was it about?
- Tell a little about what Castiglione said a gentleman must be and do.

F. Rules for Princes – p. 566 – 567

- Niccolo Machiavelli is still known today for his book, written around 1513. What was the title of the book and what was it about?
- How was what Machiavelli taught in contrast to what Vittorino taught in his “School for Princes” and what Castiglione wrote about in *Book of the Courtier*?

G. “Do What you Must” - p. 567 – 568

- Cesare Borgia was said to have come closer to being a true prince in Machiavelli’s eyes than anyone else. What things made him fit into Machiavelli’s mold?
- What do you think was meant by the inscription, “Do what you must, come what may?” Do you think this is a good motto to live by?
- How did the “story” of Cesare Borgia end?

VI. ROME, THE CITY OF THE POPE (1492 – 1564) p. 568 –

A. Introduction

- The time period in the previous section ended just a little after this section begins. Lorenzo the Magnificent was ruling in Florence, and his son, Giovanni de’ Medici was a nobleman in the court of the pope.
- As you may notice when reading this section, the life of the religious rulers was not always exactly pious. Many of them ruled for various reasons – not always out of concern for the souls of their people. It was this increasing shift from being ministers and servants of the people to focusing on power and wealth that helped contribute to

the Reformation that occurred in the 1500's. Although there were some popes and church leaders who were influential in a positive way during the period from about 1000 – Reformation, there were also some of the worst and most corrupt popes who served as well.

- You may be wondering how the popes had children if the Catholic priests and popes were supposed to be celibate. There is evidence that prior to 1139 A.D., priests, popes, and bishops were allowed to be married. However, the popes covered in this volume generally were appointed after the edict was issued commanding celibacy. Many of the children were born illegitimately. One example of this was the four children born to Pope Alexander VI, one of whom was Cesare Borgia.

B. The End of the Borgias – p. 571 –

- Pope Julius II was named after the death of Pope Alexander VI and another short-lived pope. What type of leader was he?

- List some of the accomplishments of Pope Julius II.

- Do some research on the painter, Raphael. Find out where he was from, more about his work, etc. Also try to find some examples of his work. Attach pictures of some of his works behind this page of the study guide. - a good reference is Hillyer's A Child's History of Art if you can find a copy.

C. The Sistine Ceiling – p. 574 – 575

- Research Michelangelo Buonarroti. Find out where he was from, more about his work, etc. Also find examples of his work. Attach pictures of some of his works behind this page of the study guide (be sure to include samples of his sculptures as well as his paintings). - a good reference is Hillyer's A Child's History of Art if you can find a copy.
- Describe the work of art painted on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

D. A Medici Pope – p. 575 – 578

- Who did the cardinals choose to replace Pope Julius II after his death?

- What type of pope was he?
- What artist did the pope commission to work for him?

E. Leo and the Emperor – p. 578 – 579

- What two powers were threatening to invade Italy?
- How did Pope Leo X use marriage as a tool for diplomacy with France? Did it work?
- What were ‘indulgences’ and why was Pope Leo X allowing them to be sold?
- Who was objecting to the sale of the indulgences?
- What secret deal did Pope Leo X make with Charles V?

F. Disaster for Rome – p. 579 – 582

- How did Rome change under the leadership of Pope Adrian VI?
- The leadership of Pope Adrian VI ended a little more than one year after he was named pope when he died. Who was named his successor?
- How did Pope Leo X’s secret treaty with Charles V before his death help contribute to the destruction of Rome?

G. The Sack of Rome – p. 582 -583

- Although they preferred to blame Clement for the trouble that came to Italy, how were the churchmen, statesmen, and soldiers all responsible for the downfall?
- How did Italy recover in the years after Clement’s death?

H. Michaelangelo – p. 583

- Read an article or encyclopedia entry on St. Peter’s Basilica. Look at photographs of the church.
 - Where is it located?
 - What shape was it built in?
 - Where is the grotto and what is in it?

VII. VENICE, CITY IN THE SEA (1350-1590) – pp. 585 – 587

A. Introduction

- Use an encyclopedia or online resources to read more about Venice, Italy. Find out what is meant by the words in the book, “In every way, Venice belonged to the sea, and for many years the sea belonged to Venice.” Look specifically at maps to see why it provided safety for the original inhabitants when they were being invaded by the barbarians. Share some of what you learned here:

- Venice is known as the “Queen of the Adriatic.” After reading this section (p. 584-586) in the book and the encyclopedia entry, explain how you think the city got its name.

- What is a “doge?”

- As a side study, you may want to research the fact that Venice is sinking and see what is being done to help prevent this.

B. Piazza San Marco – p. 587 – 590

- Describe the Piazza San Marco and what events were held there.

C. The Rialto - p. 590

- What was the Rialto? What occurred there?
- List some of the items that Venetian craftsmen made for trade with other cities and countries.
- What was the government of Venice like?
- After reading about the rights, responsibilities, and restrictions on the doge of Venice, what are your thoughts as to why the Venetians may have developed these rules?

D. The Lion's Head – p. 590 – 592

- This volume says, “Venice’s aristocrats all had as many duties as privileges...They were expected to act as officers of the fleets, to risk their fortunes in trade, and to serve Venice before they served their families or themselves.” (pp. 591-592). How did this philosophy differ from that of the leaders and nobility of other cities?
- What were the boxes with the lion's head carved on them used for? (They are called “bocche dei leoni.”) Was this system effective? (As a side note, the boxes each required three keys to open them. All three people holding the keys had to be present when the box was opened.)



E. Renaissance Venice – p. 592 – 593

- Look at the picture on p. 593 of a villa that may have been built by Andrea Palladio (a man – not a woman, by the way). Do you know of buildings in your town that look like or are similar to this villa?

F. Painting in Oils – p. 593 – 594

- How did the paintings in Venice in the 1400's differ from the paintings in other parts of Europe?
- Use an encyclopedia or other source to research the painter, Titian. List some of his famous works. Try to find pictures of some of his paintings.
- Titian was one of three men called the "Triumvirate." Who were the other two, and what were they famous for?

G. The King of Painters – p. 594

- Use an encyclopedia or other source to research Tintoretto. Be sure to look at some samples of his works.

VIII. THE ITALIAN KINGS OF FRANCE (1494 – 1590) pp.595 –

A. Introduction – p. 594-599

- What was it about Italy that the other nations in Europe wanted to imitate?
- While some rulers of other countries tried to invade Italy, how did Francis I of France "bring Italy" home?
- List some of the other Italian artists who had left Italy for France.
- What famous palace in Paris was built by King Francis I?
- The Louvre is no longer used as a residence. What is it used for now? (You'll have to look someone besides the history book.)

B. "What Do I Know?" - p. 599

- King Francis I and later his son, King Henri II, tried to conquer Italy and failed. Years before, the French had helped to depose the Medici family from Florence. Who was now ruling through her sons as queen of France? How did she get to be in that position?
- The money in France had been depleted by King Francis I. Once King Henri II and later, his sons, died, a new family began to rule. The new king, King Henri IV of the

Bourbon family, ruled differently. How did he help to make France a united, strong, and French nation?

- One quote from the book says, “There would be new palaces in Paris, new victories, and new discoveries, but they would be the work of men who counted their gold before they spent it, made careful plans before they acted, and looked to logic as well as fame.” Can you find a reference in the Bible that would describe the underlined portion of the quote?

IX. THE RENAISSANCE IN THE NORTH AND SPAIN (1400-1598) pp. 600-601

A. Introduction

- The prominence of trading among many of the nations helped to spread the ideas that were born or reborn in the Renaissance.
- What invention “brought about a revolution in learning that changed the history of the world” and who was its inventor?
- Who were Hubert and Jan Van Eyck? What made their work different from other artists?
- Look up the van Eycks and find examples of their work.

B. Painters and Scholars – p. 601-603

- Using an encyclopedia or other source, give some information on Albrecht Dürer – where he was from, what he did, what he was famous for, etc. Share that information here:
- Who was Erasmus, and why was he called the “Prince of Humanism?”
- Define “humanism” as it relates to this period of history.
- What work did Erasmus write? What was the significance of the book?
- Who was El Greco? What does “El Greco” mean?

- What was the name of the palace that King Philip II of Spain ordered to be built?
How long did it take to finish the palace?



- More information on the Spanish Inquisition and Counter-Reformation will be covered in the next volume.

X. THE QUEEN OF WORDS AND MUSIC (1511-1603) pp. 604 – 609

A. Introduction –

- What were rulers of other nations in Europe sure would happen when Queen Elizabeth came to the throne of England?
- What was the state of the country of England when she began her rule?

B. The “Florentine” Queen – p. 605 – 606

- Forty years after beginning her reign, how had England changed under Elizabeth’s rule?
- The text says “No nation could boast a more perfect Renaissance man than a young gentleman who had graced Elizabeth’s court, Sir Philip Sidney.” What do you think is meant by the term “Renaissance man?” Write down your definition of the term and then find a definition of it in a dictionary or other source and write it down.

C. England’s Renaissance – p. 606 – 609

- Sculpture, architecture, and painting had been the high points of the Renaissance in Italy and the rest of Europe. What was England most famous for once the Renaissance came to their country?

- Describe a common playhouse, or theatre, in England.
- List some of England's most famous playwrights and authors.
- List some of England's most famous musicians of this period.
- Review approximately when the Renaissance began and in what country. How many years did it take to reach England? (By the time the Renaissance reached England, it was already dying or was dead in Italy.)