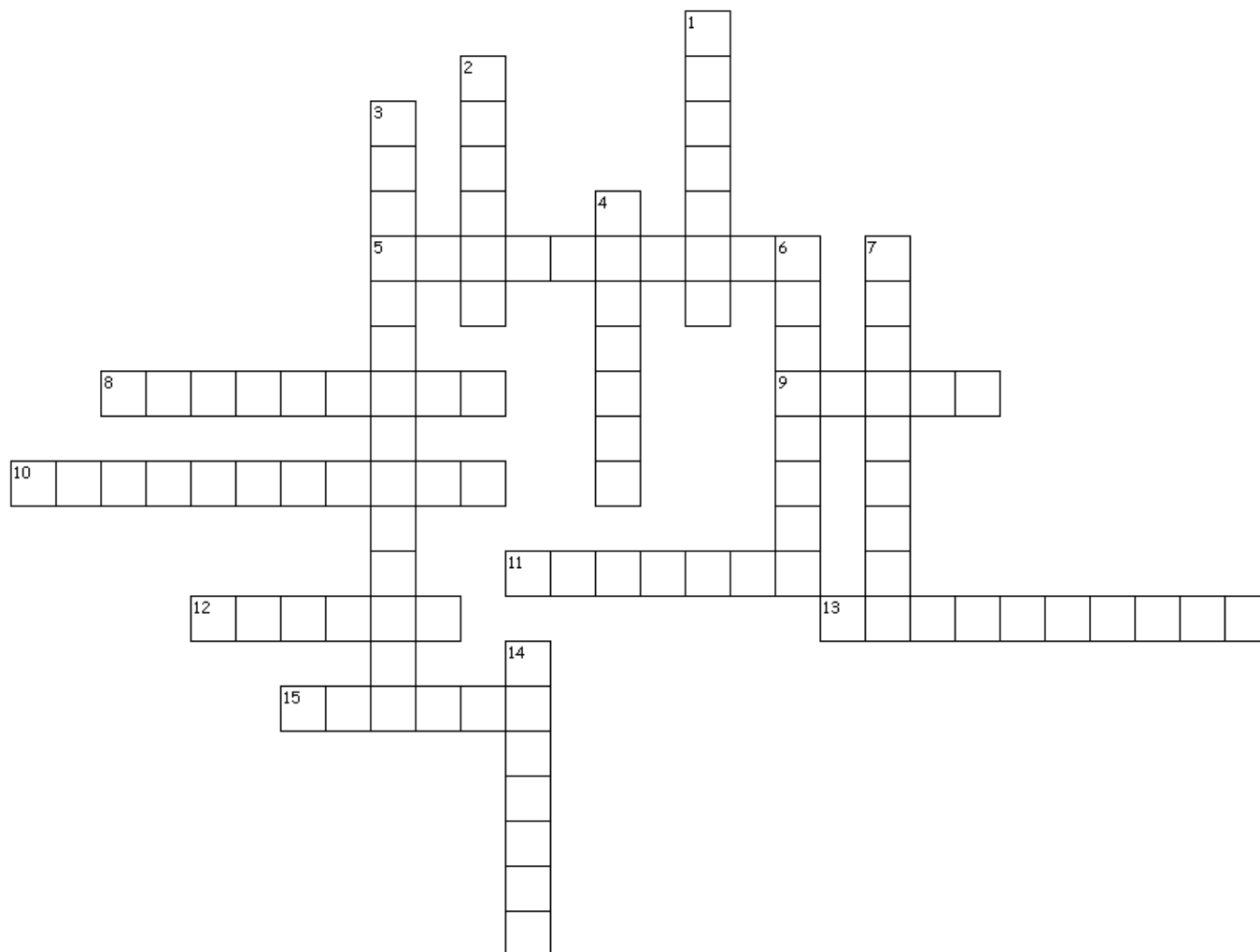


Name _____ Date _____ Class _____

Worksheet: The Renaissance**Section 1:** Cross Word: Find the terms in the cross word.**Across**

5. This system focused on the here and now, as opposed to a religious notion of an afterlife.
8. These people did not inherit their money, they earned it in business.
9. This was the first nation to enter into the Renaissance.
10. This was an artist technique used in the Renaissance.
11. Donatello, Leonardo, _____, and Michelangelo were Renaissance artists.
12. The Renaissance was a movement on the continent of _____.
13. This is the practice of denying oneself worldly pleasure.
15. Artists in the Renaissance idolized the cultures of _____ and Rome.

Down

1. The _____ plague killed many in Europe.
2. This family consisted of some of the wealthiest merchants in Europe.
3. Muslim Turks conquered this area.
4. Members of this group were known for funding various artists.
6. The _____ era lasted roughly from the 450s to the 1450s CE.
7. _____ encouraged the study of philosophy, history, poetry, and other subjects.
14. Renaissance means _____.

Section 2: True or False: Circle TRUE if the answer is TRUE. Circle FALSE if the answer is false and then write ONE COMPLETE SENTENCE explaining why it is false in the box below the answer.

1. The Medieval Era began after the collapse of the Renaissance Era. (TRUE / FALSE)

2. Many Renaissance artists used the technique of perspective to make objects appear three dimensional in their works. (TRUE / FALSE)

3. The Renaissance was defined by a fascination with and study of ancient Egyptian culture. (TRUE / FALSE)

4. Eastern Europeans conquered Constantinople in 1453 and forced the Muslim Turks out of the region. (TRUE / FALSE)

Section 3: Open Response: Write at least one paragraph answer the questions below.

1. What do historians mean by labeling the era following the Medieval Era as the Renaissance? What were some defining features of this era?

2. How did merchants impact the Renaissance Era? Who were the Medici and how did they influence Europe?

3. Explain how the following terms impacted the Renaissance Era: Bubonic Plague, Ascetism, Humanism, Secularism, City-States.

Reading Guide: The Renaissance

After encountering the horrific plagues and wars of the Medieval era (450s-1450s CE), many Europeans longed for new forms of artistic expression and a revitalized society. From 1300 to 1600, during and after the end of the Medieval Era, a new development of artistic expression came about that would later be dubbed by historians as the era of the Renaissance, which means rebirth. Italy became the first nation to experience this cultural movement that eventually swept many areas of Europe and forever changed the world. Christianity was also a main inspiration for the artistic expressions of this era.

Many of the artists of the Renaissance idolized the cultures of Greece and Rome (1,200 BCE – 600 CE). They saw the Medieval Era as plagued with problems and the Greco-Roman societies of the past as idealistic.

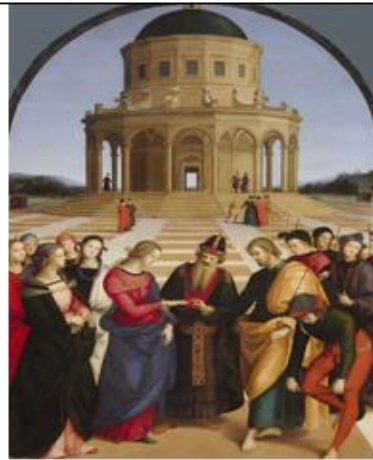
Roman architecture, which was impacted by Greek culture, was often utilized in Renaissance art. European scholars also began studying the Greek language and Greek texts. Eastern Europeans fled their region when the Muslim Turks gained the area of Constantinople in 1453. They brought Greek manuscripts of portions the Bible and other manuscripts with them.

This is a sculpture of the Biblical character David, a King of Israel, by **Donatello**. Notice the realism. In addition, notice the focus on Christianity by making a sculpture of a Biblical character. Cosimo de Medici paid Donatello to make this work that was completed around 1440.



The Last Supper was painted by Leonardo di Vinci around 1498. Notice the use of perspective, making objects look 3D in the back and front. Once again, there is a focus on Christianity with Jesus being the center of the image.

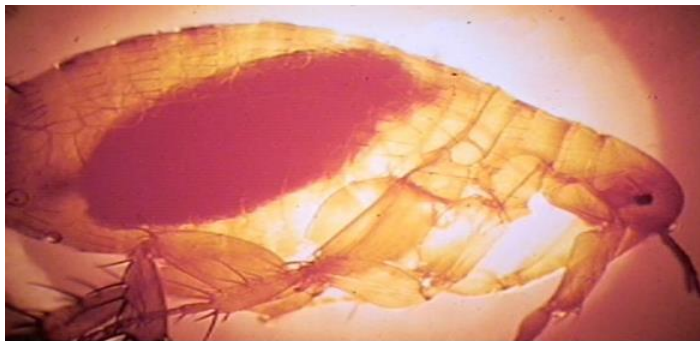
This is a sculpture of Moses that **Michelangelo** created for the tomb of Pope Julius II in 1515. The figure is from the Biblical book of Exodus. Notice the realism and detail. Like other Renaissance artists, Christianity inspired this work as well.



The Wedding of a Virgin.
By Raphael in 1520

Notice the Greek columns in the background. The Renaissance artists idolized the culture of ancient Greece and communicated this respect often in their paintings.

Wealthy merchants hired artists to devote their time to creating art in this era. Those who hired artists were called patrons. Artists such as Donatello (1386-1466) Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519), Raphael (1483-1520), and Michelangelo (1475-1564) created art in this era and were funded by patrons. Renaissance artists utilized techniques such as perspective, making a two dimensional object appear three dimensional. Artists also created realistic sculptures, a process called realism, and wrote literature in the vernacular, the common languages of the people. City-states appeared in great number in Northern Italy, partially due to the trade that came about during the Crusades (1095-1291 CE). These urban clusters became areas where new ideas could spread rapidly and evolved quickly. The Black Death of the bubonic plague killed over half the population, peaking in the mid-1300s. Those left as survivors demanded higher wages for their work and pursued artistic interests.



The Bubonic Plague was a bacterial infection that spread through the fleas on rats. The Black Plague peaked in the mid 1300s and killed millions in Europe. Pictured above is a rat flea, the carrier that spread the disease to humans.

Prior to the Renaissance, many Catholic Christians practiced extreme asceticism, denying oneself worldly pleasure and living as simply as possible. Humanists challenged asceticism and taught one could be virtuous and enjoy material possessions. Humanists also encouraged the study of philosophy, history, poetry, prose, and other subjects. Secularism, the focus on the here and now instead of religiously focused on an afterlife, became a dominant worldview in the Renaissance culture as asceticism faded for most Europeans.

During this epoch, many traders gained wealth and power in society. Prior to this age, many had rank and power in society through being born in the family lineage of nobility. Merchants did not inherit their power, they earned it through trade and commerce. The Medici family rose to become one of the most powerful merchant families of Europe. They established banks throughout Italy and other areas. Cosimo de Medici used his wealth and influence to control Florence's government leaders until he died in 1464. The Medici family also used their wealth to as patrons to fund the arts.

The Medici family gained immense wealth and maintained massive power throughout the Renaissance. Pictured to the right is *Chapel of the Princes* Mausoleum of the Medici Family where many of the family are buried.



Answers:**Section 1:****Answers matched with clues.**

medieval The _____ era lasted roughly from the 450s to the 1450s CE.

Rebirth Renaissance means _____.

Italy This was the first nation to enter into the Renaissance.

Europe The Renaissance was a movement on the continent of _____.

Greece Artists in the Renaissance idolized the cultures of _____ and Rome.

Constantinople Muslim Turks conquered this area.

Perspective This was an artist technique used in the Renaissance.

Patrons Members of this group were known for funding various artists.

Raphael Donatello, Leonardo, _____, and Michelangelo were Renaissance artists.

Bubonic The _____ plague killed many in Europe.

merchants These people did not inherit their money, they earned it in business.

Medici This family consisted of some of the wealthiest merchants in Europe.

asceticism This is the practice of denying oneself worldly pleasure.

humanists _____ encouraged the study of philosophy, history, poetry, and other subjects.

Secularism This system focused on the here and now, as opposed to a religious notion of an afterlife.

Section 2: True or False: Circle TRUE if the answer is TRUE. Circle FALSE if the answer is false and then write ONE COMPLETE SENTENCE explaining why it is false in the box below the answer.

1. The Medieval Era began after the collapse of the Renaissance Era. (TRUE / FALSE)

Actually, the Renaissance began after the Medieval Era.

2. Many Renaissance artists used the technique of perspective to make objects appear three dimensional in their works. (TRUE / FALSE)

3. The Renaissance was defined by a fascination with and study of ancient Egyptian culture. (TRUE / FALSE)

The Renaissance was defined by a fascination with and study of the cultures of Greece and Rome.

4. Eastern Europeans conquered Constantinople in 1453 and forced the Muslim Turks out of the region. (TRUE / FALSE)

The Muslim Turks were the ones who forced the Eastern Europeans out as they conquered Constantinople.

Section 3: Open Response: Write at least one paragraph answer the questions below.

1. What do historians mean by labeling the era following the Medieval Era as the Renaissance? What were some defining features of this era?

The Medieval Era experienced some horrific circumstances, like the Bubonic Plague. The Renaissance was kind of a rebirth moving away from the struggles of the Medieval Era. It was defined by a revival in artistic experience. Likewise, there was a rebirth in studying past ideas of the Greeks and Romans.

2. How did Merchants impact the Renaissance Era? Who were the Medici and how did they influence Europe?

Merchants were not like nobility. They did not inherit wealth. They had to earn it through business and trade. The Medici were massively successful merchants and accumulated great wealth. They used this wealth to fund the arts as patrons.

3. Explain how the following terms impacted the Renaissance Era: Bubonic Plague, Ascetism, Humanism, Secularism, City-States.

The Bubonic Plague killed millions in Europe. Those who survived were able to demand more for work. Ascetism was a movement in which people tried to avoid worldly desires. Humanism felt the world's desires could be engaged with and wanted to study Philosophy, History, Poems, and other subjects. Secularism focused on the here and now as opposed to an afterlife. City-States helped spread ideas in Italy.