

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Dawn of A New Age

About 1450, European scholars became more interested in studying the world around them. Their art became more true to life. They began to explore new lands. The new age in Europe was eventually called "the Renaissance." Renaissance is a French word that means "rebirth." Historians consider the Renaissance to be the beginning of modern history.

The Renaissance began in northern Italy and then spread through Europe. Italian cities such as Naples, Genoa, and Venice became centers of trade between Europe and the Middle East. Arab scholars preserved the writings of the ancient Greeks in their libraries. When the Italian cities traded with the Arabs, ideas were exchanged along with goods. These ideas,

preserved from the ancient past, served as the basis of the Renaissance. When the Byzantine Empire fell to Muslim Turks in 1453, many Christian scholars left Greece for Italy.

The Renaissance was much more than simply studying the work of ancient scholars. It influenced painting, sculpture, and architecture. Paintings became more realistic and focused less often on religious topics. Rich families became patrons and commissioned great art. Artists advanced the Renaissance style of showing nature and depicting the feelings of people. In Britain, there was a flowering in literature and drama that included the plays of William Shakespeare.

Fill in the Blanks

The Renaissance is the "r__b__r__h of Europe, a period when scholars became more interested in studying the w__r__d around them, when a_____ became more *l__f__l__k__, and when Europeans began to e__p__o__e new lands. Arab s__h__l__rs preserved the writings of the ancient G__e__ks in their l__b__a__i__s. When t__a__e__s from cities in northern I__a__y came into contact with A_____, they exchanged i__e__s as well as g__o__s. Many C__r__s__i__n scholars moved to Italy from G_____ after the B__z__n__i__e empire fell to the T__r__s in 14_____.

The Renaissance influenced p__i__t__ng, sculpture, and a__c__i__e__tu__e. Painting became more r__a__i__t__c and focused less often on r__l__g__o__s topics. Rich families became p__t__o__s by c__m__i__s__o__i__g great a_____. Artists advanced the R__n__i__s__n__e style of showing n__t__re and depicting the f__e__i__gs of people.

Answer in complete sentences

1. The word Renaissance comes from what language? What does the term mean?

*2. Why did the Renaissance begin in northern Italy?

*This is a higher order learning question. You will earn credit for any reasonable answer.

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