

# Social Studies Eight

## Unit Two: Renaissance

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- Peasants (and their families) were illiterate and uneducated. Why would the nobles want this to continue?

- Define Serfs:

9. Where were towns usually located during the Middle Ages?

10. Think of “Freedom of Choice”. How is this different between Edo Japan and Middle Ages Europe?

11. Peasants or serfs were the property of nobles. Describe how their freedom could be regained:







- Describe the roles of noble or wealthy women in medieval society:

**6. Read “Fast Forward” on page 24 of your text:**

- Provide two reasons why Alberta’s population is becoming increasingly **urban** focused:

- Consider the following two statements:
  - i. People are leaving rural areas
  - ii. The world population is increasing

7. What problems may arise as these two trends continue?



According to John Ball, why will there never be peace in England?

**Consider figure 1-10.** What does this figure communicate to you about the uneven power within feudal England?

5. Were the peasants successful in bettering their lives via The Hundred Years' War? Explain why or why not:

6. Go beyond the textbook... Do you think the peasants lost everything, or did the nobles actually lose some of their power? EXPLAIN

7. Imagine you are a peasant living on manor land. Would you stay or move to a town? List reasons for staying on the manor land, and reasons to move to a town...

MANOR

TOWN

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8. **Read the following:**

**Black Death**

This name is given to the pandemic bubonic and pneumonic plague that swept across the Middle East, the Mediterranean region, and Europe in the fourteenth century. Great epidemics had occurred before, but never with the ferocity of the Black Death. It seems to have begun in Asia Minor in 1345 or 1346 (although there may have been earlier outbreaks farther east in what is now Iran, and there were a large epidemic around this time in China). The incessant wars and failed harvests of those times encouraged turbulent population movement, and food shortages bordering on famine sapped resistance to contagious disease, thus aggravating the severity of the epidemic. It was the first great pandemic of recorded history, with death rates reaching and in places exceeding 70 percent. The plague spread along trade routes as well as in battle fields. In 1347 it reached Naples and Genoa, and from there it rapidly spread across western Europe, striking heavily populated cities, such as Vienna and Paris, and isolated rural villages alike. The Black Death caused large painful swellings to appear in the groins and armpits and black blotches on the skin due to blood leaking from the veins. Fever, delirium, and death followed in short order. The dramatic and sudden onset, rapid course, and terrible aspect evoked horror and fear, leading many who came in contact with it to flee—and as they were contagious contacts, they aggravated the further spread of the disease. The terrifying onslaught of the Black Death in an era of superstition was explained as the wrath of God or relief was sought by seeking scapegoats. Jews, witches, and others were burned at the stake.

There has been considerable debate about the nature of the Black Death. Was it due only to the plague bacillus, *Yersinia pestis*, to this and other conditions such as overwhelming streptococcal and/or staphylococcal infections that coexisted, or could it have been due to anthrax? There are reliable clinical descriptions, though there is much folklore from which inferences can be made. The ecology of plague is complex: *Yersinia pestis* may be transmitted by direct contact or a droplet spread from infected to susceptible persons, but bubonic plague typically is a zoonosis, a disease of rodents, especially rats, transmitted by the rat flea. It spreads from rats to humans in rat-infested dwellings. There is good historical evidence on the prevalence in those days of black rats, *Rattus rattus*, which prefer indoor habitat and nesting sites close to where people live. Over the next one hundred to two hundred years, black rats were supplanted by brown rats, *Rattus norvegicus*, whose preferred habitat is outdoors, removing them and their fleas to a slightly safer distance from people.

The Black Death waned slowly, and smaller localized epidemics broke out over the centuries that followed. The waning of the pandemic was due to several factors: extermination of susceptibles, leaving resistant survivors alive (blood group frequencies and other genetic markers are evidence of this); displacement of black rats by brown; and ecosystem changes (the use of brick and stone reduced indoor nesting sites for rats)

• What was Black Death?

• What effect did it have on humans?

• Why did it spread so easily through medieval Europe?

• According to your textbook, what were some results of Black Death?

· Why did Black Death contribute to the end of the feudal system in Europe?

· Why do you think freeman were able to demand more money for their labour after the Black Death?





5. Why was following the views of the Christian Church so important to people during these hard times?

6. Based on your reasoning for #5, can you create a connection between standard of living and people's connection to the church they follow?

7. Figure 1-14 is the "Last Judgment" sculpture. How might this sculpture encourage people to follow the teachings of the Church?

8. **Read “Exploring Sources” on page 30 of your text:**

Which parts of this map show religious ideas?

What geographic information does the map show?

How does this map show the importance of religion in the Middle ages?

9. **Copy figure 1-16 into your textbook.** This figure displays the hierarchy within the Church system:

10. What was the duty of each group within the church hierarchy?
11. List some roles of a priest in the church system
12. Define tithe:
13. How does the payment of tithe's represent people's commitments to the church they attended?

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Worksheet Five

1. **Read “St Francis of Assisi” on page 32 of your text:**

· Describe Francis’ life while he was growing up:

2. Who did Francis meet or come across while riding his horse?

3. What actions did he take when he met the man?

4. After the meeting with the man, what did Francis say he would give up and choose to do with his life?

5. St. Francis was made a saint by the church. Why is a saint an important figure for church followers?

6. Why is the story of St. Francis so inspiring to religious people to this day?

7. What kind of behaviour was the church encouraging in people?

8. What was the main difference between monks and nuns, as compared to the rest of the people in medieval society?



15. Why did the Black Death make people question their faith? (Be specific)

16. List the two major reasons that the church in medieval Europe had a considerable amount of wealth:

17. Your textbook names an issue that resulted from tremendous church wealth. What was this issue?

18. Why did people lose faith in the church?







6. There were five main destinations on the Silk Road. List what each of the following contributed to the trade route:

- East Africa
  
- India
  
- Sri Lanka
  
- China
  
- East Indies

**Read “The Crusades” on page 41 of your text: (Movie – Kingdom of Heaven – some truth some fiction).**

7. Which three religious groups made up the Palestine region?
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8. The area was under Christian control for many centuries. Which group / religion eventually displaced the Christians?

9. What did Pope Urban II decide to do in the year 1095?

10. How did people respond the Pope's decision?

11. Why did all groups believe that fighting in a holy war was a good idea?

12. What was the result of the first Crusade?

13. What was Sultan Saladin able to do in the year 1187?

13. Based on what you have just read, do you think there is still tension in this region today between the three religious groups? (**Class discussion – See teacher**).

14. **Look at the map of the Crusades on page 41.** What conclusions can you draw about the Crusades that might have affected trade between Europe and the East?

15. What were the two important results of the Crusades for the Europeans?

16. When Europeans made contact with the Muslims, what valuable ideas were they exposed to?

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Worksheet Seven

**Begin by reading “Goods from the East” on page 42 of your textbook:**

1. After the crusades, Italians brought in many luxury items by sea. What were some of these items?

2. Why were spices such a sought after commodity?

3. What would people often do when a ship filled with valuables reached places like Genoa and Venice?

4. How were goods shipped throughout Europe for trade?

5. List some major “players” that were actively involved in European trade:

**6. Look at figure 2-8 on page 44 of your text**

To what extent was the development of trade routes in Europe influenced by large rivers?

7. How much of European sea-going trade was controlled by Italian city states?
8. Why did geography have such an important effect on economic relationships during the Renaissance?
9. Do you think geography is an important factor today in economic relationships? Explain your answer

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Worksheet Eight

**Begin by reading page 47 of your textbook:**

1. Countries were very different than we think of today. What were countries like in Renaissance Europe?

2. Define City-States:

3. Define Hinterland:

**4. Read “Exploring Sources” on page 47 of your text:**

How do the painting and quotation illustrate their creators' pride in their city, Florence?

5. How does the Hinterland support life in Florence?

6. IDENTIFY and EXPLAIN which geographic features make Florence a suitable site for a city:
7. Think of large, successful cities, like Edmonton, Calgary, or Red Deer. What geographic features do these cities share that allow them to be successful?
8. What geographical features made city states in Italy very successful?
9. What was traded in Italy, and why was trade so cheap and easy?
10. What type of climate does Italy have?
11. How does Italy's climate lend itself to successful trade?



12. What items were produced in Italy that could later be traded with other countries?

13. Define Monarchies:

14. How was leadership in Italy different from other European countries?

15. What were some advantages of having an independent city state?



6. **Consider the commandments on page 61.** List the three that you feel are most important in living a happy life:

7. Consider the final commandment. Describe what this means in your own words:

**8. Consider figure 3-4 on page 61 of your text:**

Explain the first box in your own words:

9. Explain the second box in your own words

10. Explain the third box in your own words

11. Do you agree with the statement made in the second box? Explain:

12. Do you agree with the statement made in the third box? Explain:

13. **Read “Zoom In” on page 62 of your text:**

· What was the function of aqueducts in ancient Rome?

14. Define philosophers:

15. Define Democracy:

16. What aspects of Greek and Roman life that you have just read about still play a role in our life today?

17. What was the most important concept to Renaissance thinkers?

18. What were the four fundamental beliefs of Humanists in regards to individuals?

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Worksheet Ten

**Begin by reading page 80 of your textbook:**

1. If you wanted to study various forms of science during the renaissance, how did you go about doing so?
2. Why was science not able to advance for a long period of time during the start of the Renaissance? (First paragraph)
3. How did the notion of "Humanism" change how people approached science during the Renaissance?



10. What was Ptolemy's contribution to astronomy?
11. Based on what you know today... Was Ptolemy's idea correct?
12. Before you read ahead... Why would people be so opposed to any change in how the universe and the earth was seen in astronomy? (Hint: Church & Religion)
14. What discovery did Copernicus make? And how did he make the discovery?
15. How did Copernicus' discovery conflict with old beliefs and ideas?
16. What discovery did Kepler make? And how did he make the discovery?
17. Did Kepler's ideas conflict with any previous ideas?
18. What discovery did Galileo make? And how did he make the discovery?

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Worksheet Eleven

1. Define anatomy:
2. Define astrology:
3. Instead of accurate information, what did doctors rely on to help treat sick people?
4. How was medical knowledge advanced with a new method in Italy?
6. Describe how anatomy was taught in Renaissance universities.



7. Why did Leonardo da Vinci believe mathematics was so important?

8. List some examples of the importance of mathematics during the Renaissance:

**Move onto page 97 of your textbook:**

9. Why was the Renaissance known as an information age?

10. Where did the Renaissance begin? And which places did it move to next?

11. During the Renaissance, what was the main method used to transfer information?

12. Think of your use of computers and cell phones... Do you think that you live in an information age? Explain your answer:

13. In what ways do you think modern communication technology affects your worldview?

14. Do you think libraries play an important role in the exchange of ideas today? Explain your answer:

16. How were ideas shared at universities during the Renaissance?

17. How were new ideas and inventions then spread out to the rest of Europe?

18. How did people like da Vinci and Erasmus aide in the spread of information during the Renaissance?



25. How did the invention of the printing press change lives of the middle class people in Europe?

26. How did the invention of the printing press allow books and literature to spread through numerous countries with different languages?

27. Based on your textbook, what is the definition of “vernacular”?

28. How did the printing press allow people who write books to profit from their work?

29. How would printing allow thinkers like Galileo to spread their ideas more quickly?



5. List all of the steps spices had to take before they finally arrived in Europe:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Based on the steps you just covered... Why would this cause the price of spices to become very high?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Why was the security of trade routes a problem during this time period?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. In your textbook, there are two examples of conflicts that reduced the security of trade routes. List these two examples and the effect they had on trade:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. **Look at the map on page 40 of your text.** Why was trade with Constantinople so vital for European trade with the East?

10. Based on what you have read... state two reasons why the Europeans were setting out to explore

11. When Columbus reached land (now North America), where did he think he had actually landed?

12. What did Europeans believe was the solution to their trade problems?

13. What potential gains did the Europeans hope to gain from finding a new sea route to the east?

14. List some sources of currency that are used today

15. What did Europeans use as currency during the Renaissance?

16. Why did the Europeans need to find new sources of precious metals?

17. Based on religion, what was another purpose of exploration?