Florence: The Cradle of the Renaissance

What advances were made during the Renaissance?

Examine the photograph of Florence. Then circle five key features or structures and write a sentence about what each one might tell you about the city. For example, you might circle a mountain in the background and say that mountains indicate that Florence is in a valley.
1. What factors helped Florence to become a wealthy city?

2. How did Florence’s wealth contribute to its cultural activity?

3. Why did many travelers come to Florence?
If your class is doing the activity for this lesson, complete all the Reading Notes for each section. (Note: If your class is not doing the activity, skip Question 3 under each section.)

Section 3
1. How were architects and builders of the Renaissance influenced by both classical and humanist ideas?

2. How did Brunelleschi build a dome that would not collapse?

3. Compare your human dome to Brunelleschi’s dome by completing the sentences.
   - On our dome, the parts of our bodies that supported the most weight were
   - On Brunelleschi’s dome, the parts that supported the most weight were
   - The feet on our dome were like the _______________ on Brunelleschi’s dome.
   - The beach ball on our dome was like the _______________ on Brunelleschi’s dome.
   - The bodies on our dome were like the _______________ on Brunelleschi’s dome.
Section 4
1. Briefly describe how classical cultures and humanism influenced Renaissance painters.

2. Briefly describe two Renaissance advances in painting techniques.

3. Botticelli painted *Adoration of the Magi* in about 1482. In the left column of the chart below, list at least two details from the image. In the right column, identify the perspective technique Botticelli used for each. An example has been provided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Detail from Image</th>
<th>Perspective Technique</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People</td>
<td>The figures close to the viewer seem bigger; those farther away seem smaller</td>
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Section 5
1. How were Renaissance sculptors influenced by humanist ideals and ancient Roman statues?

2. What is significant about Donatello’s *David*? About Michelangelo’s *David*?

3. What was it like to try to sculpt an eye? What do you think it might have been like for Michelangelo to create his *David* from a block of marble?
Section 6
1. Briefly describe two ways in which Renaissance literature differed from medieval literature.

2. How is Dante’s *The Divine Comedy* an example of humanist art?

3. Write the part of *The Divine Comedy*—*Inferno*, *Purgatorio*, or *Paradiso*—that each image on Placard D illustrates.
   Image A:
   Image B:
   Image C:

Section 7
1. How did the study of science change during the Renaissance?

2. Quickly sketch and label three items that represent different science or mathematics topics Leonardo da Vinci explored in his notebooks.

3. Write what you think each drawing by Leonardo da Vinci on Placard E represents, using the list on Station Materials A.
   Drawing A:
   Drawing B:
   Drawing C:
   Drawing D:
Section 8
1. How did the Medici family influence and rule in Renaissance Florence?

2. What did Machiavelli write about in *The Prince*? How did this book contradict humanist ideals? In what ways was it a very modern work?

3. Rewrite each quotation from *The Prince* below in your own words.

   **Quotation 1:** “A prince should have no other aim or thought, nor take up any other thing for his study, but war and its organization and discipline, for that is the only art that is necessary to one who commands.”

   *My interpretation:*

   **Quotation 2:** “Thus, it is well to seem merciful, faithful, humane, sincere, religious, and also to be so; but you must have the mind so disposed [ready] that when it is merciful to be otherwise, you may be able to change to the opposite qualities.”

   *My interpretation:*

   **Quotation 3:** “In the actions of men, and especially of princes, from which there is no appeal, the end justifies the means.”

   *My interpretation:*

Section 9
1. What industries helped Florence become the center of the Renaissance?

2. What were two differences between Florence’s Old Market and New Market?

3. In the chart below, list the item(s) you purchased with your florins. Complete each column by entering the price and the number of florins remaining. Remember that you have 15 florins. You must have a zero balance in the third column when you are done.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price in Florins</th>
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Use your Reading Notes to create a scrapbook page about what you learned about Renaissance Florence. Follow these steps to create your scrapbook page.

1. Write a caption for each image below that explains what it shows and tells about Florence.
2. *On a separate sheet of paper,* write a paragraph that describes Florence at the time of the Renaissance. Use precise, descriptive words to create a visual image in the reader’s mind.

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**My Scrapbook Page of Renaissance Florence**

![Image 1](image1.png)

![Image 2](image2.png)

![Image 3](image3.png)

![Image 4](image4.png)

![Image 5](image5.png)