

**The Renaissance****Lesson 2****The Italian Renaissance****Key Terms and People**

**perspective** art technique that re-creates three dimensions

**Leonardo da Vinci** Italian painter, sculptor, architect, musician, engineer, and scientist

**Michelangelo** Italian sculptor, architect, painter, and poet

**Before You Read**

In the last lesson, you read about the beginning of the Renaissance.

In this lesson, you will learn about the Renaissance in Italy.

**As You Read**

Use a chart to take notes to answer questions about important aspects of the Italian Renaissance.

**ARTISTS OF THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE****How did art change during the Renaissance?**

Dozens of artists worked in northern Italy during the Renaissance, both in painting and sculpture. Depicting subjects realistically became an important style. To achieve this, Renaissance painters used **perspective** to create the illusion that their paintings were three-dimensional. Sculptors also made figures more realistic than those from the Middle Ages. The subject of artwork changed also. Art in the Middle Ages was mostly religious. Renaissance artists, however, also reproduced other views of life. The Renaissance emphasis on the individual was reflected in artists painting realistic portraits of prominent citizens.

The artist **Michelangelo** showed great skill as an architect, a sculptor, and a painter. **Leonardo da Vinci** was another

important Renaissance artist. In fact, da Vinci was an example of the ideal of the well-rounded “Renaissance man.” In addition to being a painter and sculptor, da Vinci was also a scientist and inventor. Other important artists included Raphael, who advanced the realistic style. A number of women also became notable painters, even though Renaissance society continued to restrict women’s roles.

1. How did the methods and subjects in art change during the Renaissance?

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Lesson 2, *continued*

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**WRITERS OF THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE**

***How did literature change during the Renaissance?***

Renaissance writers also achieved greatness. The dominant feature of Italian Renaissance writing was humanism. This focus on humanism caused writers to change their subject matter from that of classical times. Writers began to express their own thoughts and feelings.

Often, writers gave a detailed look at an individual. Petrarch, in both Italian and Latin, wrote sonnets on romantic themes, specifically about an ideal woman. Boccaccio is best known for a series of realistic stories about the follies of a group of young people. Machiavelli used realism to take a new approach to understanding government.

Emphasizing the imperfect condition of human beings, he focused on telling rulers how to expand their power. He believed rulers should do what was politically effective, even if it was not morally right. Women writers such as Vittoria Colonna also gained fame, focusing mostly on personal subjects.

2. What did Renaissance writers write about?

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**Lesson 2, *continued***

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As you read about the rebirth of learning and the arts in Italy, write notes to answer the questions.

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| <b>Supported by patrons, dozens of artists worked in northern Italy during the Renaissance.</b>             |  |
| 1. What effects did the emphasis on individuals have on painters and sculptors?                             |  |
| 2. What method did painters use to achieve a realistic style?   |  |
| <b>Italian Renaissance writers focused on specific themes and a variety of subjects.</b>                    |  |
| 3. How did writers reflect Renaissance values in their work?  |  |
| 4. How did the writing of Petrarch, Boccaccio, Machiavelli, and Colonna demonstrate the values of humanism? |  |