

Renaissance Questions (7th Grade Social Studies)

1. What does the word **Renaissance** refer to?
 - a. a period of renewed interest in the arts, based on the Classical period
 - b. a series of wars between competing Italian city-states
 - c. a breakout of infectious diseases that wiped out millions of people
 - d. the migration of Italians to the New World

2. What was **Humanism**?
 - a. a march of masses of people with the intent to visit the birthplace of Jesus Christ
 - b. a way of thinking that balances religious faith with the individuality of humans, an interest in nature, and the power of the human mind to learn
 - c. the practice of humans devoting all of their time to the practice of their religion, at the expense of all other activities
 - d. a worldwide movement to improve people's physical fitness during the 15th and 16th Centuries

3. What made the Italian City-States unique and important, compared to other European cities, during the Renaissance Period?
 - a. the city-states were self-governing and conducted their own trade.
 - b. the city-states were centrally located in Italy, in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea region, where people from all over Europe came to trade and do their banking.
 - c. the city-states were able to establish guilds of craftsmen, who were talented in making a variety of goods
 - d. all of the above

4. Which of these was not true about the city of Florence during the Renaissance?

- a. it was the center of banking in Europe.
- b. it was the home, at one time, of Leonardo Da Vinci and Michelangelo, as well as other artists
- c. architecture and statuary flourished in the city
- d. people who wished to practice Humanism were prohibited from doing so with the city's borders.

5. What were some of the main goals of painters in Florence during the Renaissance Period?

- a. painters were trying to make their subjects in the paintings look flat and unemotional.
- b. painters were trying to make their backgrounds in the paintings look unrealistic.
- c. painters were trying to make their subjects look real, in lifelike poses, and show emotion.
- d. None of the above

6. Which artist sculpted the best-known Renaissance Period statue of David?

- a. Michelangelo
- b. Leonardo Da Vinci
- c. Raphael
- d. Caravaggio

7. Renaissance painters discovered the concept of perspective, and were able to show it in their works. Which choice best describes perspective?

- a. the flattening of the subject in the painting to appear two-dimensional
- b. using only one solid color behind the main subjects
- c. using only dark colors in the foreground
- d. creating the appearance of depth; the appearance of three dimensions

8. Oil paints were developed by scientists during the Renaissance Period. This was revolutionary for artists of the time. What advances did oil paints make for them?

- a. the paint dried faster
- b. it was thicker
- c. it allowed artists to show more details than before
- d. all of the above

9. Which of the following was revolutionary for sculptors of the Renaissance Period?

- a. sculptors made the majority of their work out of wood.
- b. sculptors' statues were freestanding, and could be viewed from any side
- c. sculptors' works were mostly flat, carved into a rectangular background
- d. None of the above

10. There were great advances in literature in Italy during the Renaissance Period. Many writers changed to writing in dialects (forms of a language) that most people could understand. Before, during the Medieval Period, most writers had written in which language?

- a. Spanish
- b. French
- c. English
- d. Latin

11. Which was a major reason for the cultural advancements during the Renaissance Period?

- a. the growth of trade and commerce
- b. the rapid spread of diseases
- c. the tall mountains and windy weather of the region
- d. none of the above

12. Which family in Florence, had a profound impact on finance, as well as Renaissance art and culture, due to their great wealth and power?

- a. the Medici Family
- b. the Vespucci Family
- c. the David Family
- d. the Georgiano Family

13. Which group served as the greatest patron of the arts during the Renaissance Period?

- a. fishermen
- b. doctors
- c. the Catholic Church
- d. university professors

14. Which of the words below is an antonym for the word religious?

- a. fantasy
- b. secular
- c. foreign
- d. sadness

15. What is the title of the long emotional poem, written by Renaissance author Alighieri Dante, which talked about the afterlife, heaven, and hell?

- a. *The Divine Comedy*
- b. *Death and Anguish*
- c. *The Fiery Depths of the Earth*
- d. *A Terrible Tragedy*

16. Which of these people was a great scientist/inventor who lived during the period of the Renaissance?

- a. Henry Ford
- b. Albert Einstein
- c. Julius Caesar
- d. Leonardo Da Vinci

17. Niccolo Machiavelli was both a statesman and historian in Florence. He wrote a famous book about politics, leaders of government, and the way they led. What is the name of this book?

- a. The Prince
- b. All Hail the King!
- c. The Power of the Pope
- d. Ascending to the Throne

18. The growth of the city of Florence was largely due to its support of the arts, money lending, and trade. This gave rise to the use of coins for business transactions. The valuable coins used in Florence and throughout Europe had which name?

- a. Goldies
- b. Florins
- c. Silver Circles
- d. Leonardos

19. Renaissance ideas were spread through trade (people doing business), travel (people going to new places), and education (people teaching new ideas and skills to each other). Which invention of the Renaissance Period helped most to spread ideas and discoveries?

- a. long lasting oil paints
- b. the printing press with movable type (metal letters)
- c. wooden ships
- d. taller church buildings with balconies overlooking an entire city

20. For which of these achievements is Renaissance artist/scientist/inventor Leonardo Da Vinci given credit?

- a. developing the concept of the underwater diving suit
- b. envisioning an early model of a parachute
- c. designing war machines to attack enemy armies and defend soldiers
- d. all of the above

21. Michelangelo was one of the greatest painters and sculptors during the Renaissance, and really, one of the greatest ever in all history. In addition to being ambitious, which is another personality trait Michelangelo was known to have?

- a. extremely friendly to strangers
- b. a bad temper
- c. a great negotiator in business
- d. none of the above

22. Michelangelo spent almost four years painting what part of the Sistine Chapel?

- a. the ceiling
- b. the inside walls
- c. the outside walls
- d. the floor

23. Most great artists of the Renaissance Period were apprentices early in their careers. What is an apprentice?

- a. someone who studies under a master artist to learn techniques
- b. someone who was so poor that he had to steal from an owner of a business
- c. someone who teaches others the finer points of a craft
- d. none of the above

24. Copernicus was the first astronomer to propose the idea that Earth revolves around the sun, and that day and night occurs because Earth spins on its axis. He wrote a book declaring these facts. What group prohibited (did not allow) people of the time to read Copernicus' book?

- a. The Astronomers' Guild
- b. The Catholic Church
- c. The Society of Shakespearean Actors
- d. The Guild of Book Publishers

25. Through his work, Andreas Vesalius was a scientist who changed the field of medicine, and our understanding of the human body, called anatomy. How was Vesalius able to learn about the form and function of parts of the human body?

- a. he dreamt about being sick
- b. he was the first to use x-ray technology
- c. he cut open dead human bodies
- d. he dissolved body organs in salt water

26. Which of these Renaissance Period monarchs sponsored the voyages of Christopher Columbus to seek a sea route to Asia?

- a. King Henry VIII, King of England
- b. Queen Elizabeth I, Queen of England
- c. Isabella I, Queen of Spain
- d. King George III, King of England

27. What were Renaissance Period poet and playwright William Shakespeare said to have written?

- a. the play, Romeo and Juliet
- b. poems called sonnets
- c. works of comedy and tragedy
- d. all of the above

28. In the 15th Century, German inventor Johannes Gutenberg introduced what world-changing device that changed communication and learning forever?

- a. the printing press
- b. the Internet
- c. the chalkboard
- d. none of the above

29. Elizabeth I, Queen of England, the daughter of King Henry VIII, became queen when she was 25 and ruled for 45 years. She never married. What reason did she give for never marrying?

- a. she did not want to have children
- b. she feared that a husband would take her power
- c. she was prohibited by law to marry once she became queen
- d. none of the above

30. Which of these was a capability of Leonardo Da Vinci?

- a. architect (designer of buildings)
- b. artist (sculptor and painter)
- c. inventor of machines for work, travel, and war
- d. all of the above