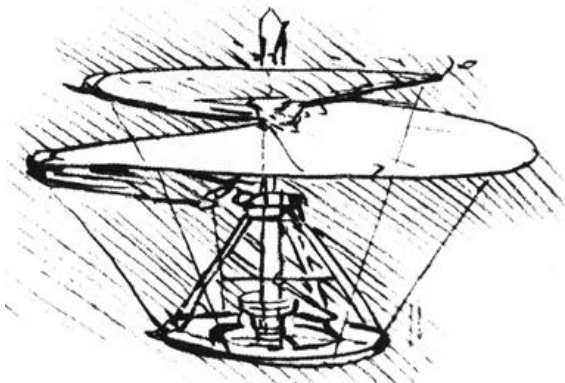




# Renaissance Big Book

Project Glad

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The important thing about the Renaissance is that new inventions and trade routes brought new ideas to Europe that changed the way people thought and lived.

- Italian scholars of the Renaissance rediscovered the classical ideas of the ancient Greeks and Romans.
- The fall of feudalism gave rise to Humanism which is the belief system that focused on human beings and their abilities.
- Humanism focused on:
  1. Individual worth (individualism)
  2. A strong commitment to public service
  3. The development of a variety of skills and talents



**However, the important thing about the Renaissance is that new inventions and trade routes brought new ideas to Europe that changed the way people thought and lived.**



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- The Italian city-state of Florence was the birthplace of the Renaissance.
- Wealthy merchant families controlled trade in Florence.
- These wealthy families became patrons of the arts, supported many artists, and paid for projects to beautify their cities.
- Foreign visitors to Florence were impressed by what they saw and spread these new ideas when they traveled.



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- A young merchant from Venice named Marco Polo informed others of a new trade route from Europe to China.
- Marco Polo lived in the court of the Great Kublai Khan in China for almost 20 years.
- This new trade route encouraged the flow of goods and ideas from China to Europe and back.
- Marco Polo wrote a book about his travels. Many copies of his book were printed and read by generations of future explorers.



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- The Chinese invention of paper was brought to Europe during the Renaissance.
- Johannes Gutenberg invented movable type and the printing press between 1438-1454.
- This new technology combined with the invention of paper led to a steady increase of literacy throughout Europe.
- This, in turn, spread the new ideas of the Renaissance quickly and inexpensively.





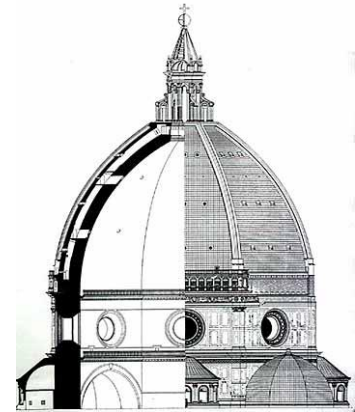
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- As new ideas spread throughout Europe, a group of resourceful, talented people made important contributions to the arts, science, medicine, philosophy, and literature.
- Michelangelo brought new concepts of muscular and elongated figures in art.
- Brunelleschi studied Roman architecture and then built a domed cathedral that has stood for over 500 years.
- William Shakespeare (poet, actor, and playwright) contributed to the Renaissance by writing many plays and poems that still influence what people read and watch today.
- Leonardo da Vinci contributed to both art and science. With his strong desire to learn and his many talents, he was the ideal Renaissance man.



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