

Renaissance to World War II History

By Carla Earley

Hello, everyone, and welcome to 7th and 8th grade history! In this 36-week study, we'll cover World History from the Renaissance to the early 20th century in the first semester and American History from the **Roaring Twenties to Post-World War II** in the second semester. I hope you'll enjoy our adventure together!

To begin with, find a binder where you can keep all your history activities and assignments. You will be asked to read sections and take notes. You will also have assignments that ask you to do your own research. When you use the Internet, do so with your parents' permission and supervision. As we go along, be sure you keep a **timeline** so you can see how different people and events related to each other in history. Also, if you see a person's name or anything else in **bold**, know that it's important to remember, so write down something you learn about the person, place, or happening in your notebook. It will be easy for you to go back and refresh your memory as to who or what it was and why it was important.

History = His Story! History is the story of God. His hand is all over it! He is totally in control of it. As we learn the history of the world and the history of the United States, look for how God is working in history. See how He makes everything work together. Notice how He raises up people for "such a time as this." And remember, YOU are part of history, too. God will use you for His story, too!

Week One: Renaissance and Reformation

Day 1: The Renaissance Overview

Be sure to take notes each day, add to your timeline, and add to your list of significant people, places, and happenings in history!

- We are going to start this class in the **Renaissance**. This period of time in Europe came just after the Middle Ages, or what we sometimes call the **Dark Ages**. They were “dark” because people were mostly trying to survive plagues, famine, and wars instead of learning, creating, and enjoying their lives. The Renaissance was a time of learning, inventing, science, art, and sharing these things across cultures and borders of Europe. It was an exciting time to be alive!
- Today, I’d like for you to go to <https://www.ducksters.com/history/renaissance.php> and explore a bit. Stick with the “Overview” section today (especially the first three choices), and you can explore some more tomorrow. As you read about the Renaissance, answer these questions—in complete sentences—in your own binder. Some answers you will find directly in the text, and some you will have to think about. Some of the pages have a “quiz” section on the bottom. Feel free to try those out and see how you do!

1. What does the word “Renaissance” mean?
2. What is their definition of “humanism”? Why could that be a good thing and a bad thing? (If you don’t know, discuss it with your teacher.)
3. Where did the Renaissance begin?
4. What is a **Renaissance Man**? Who are the two they suggest here? Do you know anyone who could be considered a Renaissance Man or Woman?
5. About when did the Renaissance begin? When did it end?
6. What did **Johannes Gutenberg** invent around 1450? Why do you think that helped the Renaissance to spread?
7. Who is **Lorenzo de Medici**, and what was his role in the Renaissance?
8. How did **Christopher Columbus**’s discovery of a new world fit in with the Renaissance?
9. Add any dates you find important to your timeline.

Spend some time viewing these additional resources, but *be sure you have your parents' permission*.

Middle Ages Presentation: provided as a download on the Lessons page.

Middle Ages

<https://www.worldbookonline.com/student-new/#!/article/home/ar360060/middle%20ages>

How clean were Medieval people?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ue6KrcIrvY8>

What Did Peasants Eat in Medieval Times?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WeVcey0Ng-w>

Renaissance overview:

<https://www.worldbookonline.com/student-new/#!/article/home/ar464720/renaissance>

<https://www.worldbookonline.com/student-new/#!/article/home/ar464720/outline/h13>

Humanism:

<https://www.worldbookonline.com/student-new/#!/article/home/ar266600/humanism>

SchoolhouseTeachers.com note: Parents should closely monitor children's use of YouTube and Wikipedia if you navigate away from the videos and articles cited in these lessons. We also recommend viewing the videos on a full-screen setting in order to minimize your students' exposure to potentially offensive ads and inappropriate comments beside or beneath the video.

Day 2: Culture in the Renaissance

- Go back to <https://www.ducksters.com/history/renaissance.php> and explore the sections under "Culture." Draw and color what people wore in Renaissance times and put it in your binder.
- Plan a meal for your family like they would've had in the Renaissance times. Make a list of what you will make and see if your mom will help you in the kitchen! Substitute grape juice for wine or ale. Remember, you might not be able to find some of the ingredients (like peacock or swan meat, for example), but do the best you can. Explain to your family that they can only eat with their hands and maybe a knife.

You can use resources such as the following:

- <http://www.lordsandladies.org/middle-ages-food-and-diet.htm>
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20200208154703/http://medievalcookery.com/recipes/>

- Make a list in your binder of the “New Techniques and Styles” in art. Visit these sites for additional information. *As always, exercise caution when visiting art websites. Some images may not be in accordance with your family’s values.*
 - <http://www.italianrenaissance.org/painting-techniques-of-the-renaissance-2/>
 - https://www.ehow.com/facts_4897120_techniques-used-renaissance-art.html
- Make a list in your binder of the instruments that were developed during the Renaissance. If you know how to play one of these (a piano, for example, instead of a harpsichord), make this your after-dinner entertainment when you serve your Renaissance meal to your family. For more information, visit these sites:
 - <https://web.archive.org/web/20191205024819/http://courses.music.indiana.edu/m401/instrum.html>
 - <https://web.archive.org/web/20160730070213/https://www.samedaymusic.com/library--renaissanceinstruments>
 - https://courses.lumenlearning.com/musicappreciation_with_theory/chapter/instruments-used-in-renaissance-music/
- Make a list of the four main astronomers in the Renaissance time period and what they did. These World Book sites will provide additional information:
 - <https://www.worldbookonline.com/student-new/#/article/home/ar132860/copernicus>
 - <https://www.worldbookonline.com/student-new/#/article/home/ar215300/galileo>
 - <https://www.worldbookonline.com/student-new/#/article/home/ar073660/tycho>
 - <https://www.worldbookonline.com/student-new/#/article/home/ar298000/kepler>

Additional downloads on the Lessons plan page:

 - Copernicus
 - Galileo
- Write down anything else interesting that you found in the “Culture” section and be sure to share it with your family at your Renaissance meal.
- Add any important dates to your timeline.

Day 3: Famous People of the Renaissance

- Go back to <https://www.ducksters.com/history/renaissance.php> and explore the “People” section. With your parents’ permission, choose to research further a few who are mentioned in any of the various sections.
- Make a list of the people they discuss here and tell what they did. With the artists, be sure to list some of their most famous paintings and sculptures.

Day 4: Reformation Begins

- During the Renaissance, in 1517, a man named **Martin Luther** nailed his **95 theses** to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany. He didn't mean to start the Reformation, but he saw things the Roman Catholic Church was doing that he believed were wrong. He wanted to begin a discussion in order to change things within the church. It didn't quite work out that way. In fact, the events and people who were involved in the **Reformation** ended up changing the history of the world.
- This site (https://kids.kiddle.co/Protestant_Reformation) provides information about the Reformation. Read the main page to find out more about the Reformation. Click on any of the blue words to learn more. We'll talk about the leaders of the Reformation tomorrow. But for now, read about what the Reformation was all about. Take notes in your binder. Be sure you include:
 - Who and what triggered the Protestant Reformation? When did it begin?
 - When did it end, and how?
 - What were the main causes for people to criticize the established churches?
 - Add any important dates to your timeline.
- Also, I want you to think about these things:
 - How did the Renaissance affect the beginning of the Reformation? Remember, indulgences were sold to rebuild **St. Peter's Basilica**. Click on St. Peter's Basilica to find out more about it and how Renaissance artists and architects were involved in this rebuilding.
Additional information:
 - <https://www.worldbookonline.com/student-new/#!/article/home/ar484970/st.%20peters%20basilica>
 - <https://www.worldbookonline.com/student-new/#!/media/pc367577/type/photo>
 - Think about indulgences. Why do you think Martin Luther and others so strongly believed this was wrong? Can you pay money to get forgiveness from God? How do you get forgiveness from God?
 - Can you imagine going to church and having the entire service conducted in a language you didn't understand? How would you know anything about Jesus? How could you be saved without learning what the Bible says about salvation?

Day 5: Reformation Leaders

- Do you remember from yesterday's lesson who some of the leaders of the Reformation were? Go back to https://kids.kiddle.co/Protestant_Reformation and click on the following people to learn about them. Note in your binder who they were and how they affected the Reformation. Note where each one lived and find those places on a map. (The link for Luther has some great pictures! If you understand music, compare the early copy of "A Mighty Fortress," which Luther wrote, to modern-day music.)
 - **Erasmus**
 - Find additional information here:
<https://www.worldbookonline.com/student-new/#!/article/home/ar183660/erasmus>
 - **Martin Luther**
 - Find additional information using the download Lutheran Reformation on the Lessons page.
 - **Huldrych Zwingli**
 - Find additional information here:
<https://www.worldbookonline.com/advanced/article?id=ar617840&st=zwingli#tab=homepage>
 - **John Calvin**
 - Find additional information here:
<https://www.worldbookonline.com/advanced/article?id=ar088900&st=john+calvin#tab=homepage>
- Add any important dates to your timeline.