

CONTENTS

The Premise	2
A Word to the Teacher	3
Rationale for Self-directed Learning	4
The Format	8
Suggested Readings	9
The Interest Development Centre	10
Getting Started	11
The Unit: The Renaissance, 1300-1600	
Unit I: Prep to Year Three	13
Suggestions for Adapting the Unit	25
Unit II: Years Four to Eight	27
Bibliography	45
Records	46
Exploring the Arts	47

A WORD TO THE TEACHER

The Renaissance

The Renaissance was truly a rebirth of European culture, art and philosophy. While Italy was first to burst from the cloistered atmosphere of the Middle Ages, the vigour of the movement, aided by the invention of moveable type and trade with the Orient, could no longer be contained. By the time Martin Luther nailed up his Ninety-five Theses in 1517, ushering in the Enlightenment, the ideas of the Renaissance had trickled to such far-flung corners as Germany and England.

While Renaissance scholars took their inspiration from classical works, their practical applications of the ideas of humanism have had a profound influence on the shape of Western culture. So, too, have the ideals of the prosperous and outspoken merchant class, whose trade ventures changed the colour and texture of Renaissance life. Today, to call someone a “Renaissance person” is to bestow a rare compliment on an individual whose versatility and well-rounded character embody the Renaissance motto, “Humans, the Measure of All Things”.



RATIONALE FOR SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING

Our children's education must be more than the memorisation of capitals of the states, the products of the countries and dates and places of past wars. Most teachers and parents would agree that what is also wanted is for our children to learn to think for themselves, to organise their own time, to make wise choices, to work independently and to thoughtfully evaluate the results of their study.



INTEREST DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Renaissance

The purpose of the Interest Development Centre is to stimulate interest in the topic area. The student needs time for browsing and investigation for maximum benefit.

Teachers and Parents: To expedite the exploration process, you might make the following materials available. These are beginning ideas; you and your students will think of more. Let parents and other teachers know about the Centre and it will many times grow without effort.

Construction paper	Maps, globes and atlases	Books on:
Butcher paper	(historical)	Costumes
“Parchment” paper	Feathers, sequins, beads,	Architecture
Cardboard	“gems”	Medical history
Poster board, various colours	Foil	Armour and weapons
Sealing wax	Video camera and tape	Games
Quill pens and ink	Cassette recorder and tape	Foods
Glue and rubber cement	35mm camera and film	Art and artists
Marking pens	Tripod	Heraldry
Poster paints	Add your own ideas, and	Guilds
Coloured pencils	remember: it is better to	Popes
Blades	provide basic materials	Natural dyes
Scissors	and let construct projects	Etiquette
Balsa wood	projects from their own	Explorers and exploring
Empty spools	designs.	Pilgrims and pilgrimages
Dowels		Quotations
Toothpicks		Drama history
Matchsticks		Authors
Tape		Everyday life
String		Humanism
Fabric (100% cotton, wool, raw silk, natural colours)		Music: instruments and history
Costume basics (skirts, vests capas, leotards, hats, boots, etc.)		Dance History
Study prints of famous paintings.		Trade
		Festivals and holidays

1. AN AGE OF HUMANITY

Look through some books about the Middle Ages and about the Renaissance. Notice the differences.

Renaissance means “re-birth”. When the Renaissance began, people were ready for a change. Explorers, artists, writers and politicians were bursting with new ideas. What did “re-birth” mean?

- Present your findings and thoughts about this new age in:

a story

OR

a picture



1. “A ROSE, BY ANY OTHER NAME, WOULD SMELL AS SWEET”

The Middle Ages (1000-1300 a.d.) is a period of history often called the “Age of Faith”, while the Renaissance (1300-1600) is better described by the title, “Humans, the Measure of All Things.”

- **Find out** how the Renaissance was different from the Middle Ages. Why is it considered a distinctive time in history rather than just a continuation of medieval times?

What is the meaning of the word “renaissance”?

Why is this name appropriate for the times?

Why is “Humans, the Measure of all Things” a good motto for the Renaissance?

- **Present** your findings in an oral or written report.

