

Renaissance Florence Walk

Mission: Walk through Renaissance Florence. Visit the banks, a patron's palace, the cathedral, an artist's workshop, the town square, and a scholars' library. Collect evidence to explain why this "rebirth" happened HERE.

Big question: Why did the Renaissance begin in Italian city-states like Florence, and what were its big ideas?

★ Warm-up: Why here?

What does a city need for art to flourish?

Money ✓ **To pay artists and builders.**

Ideas ✓ **New and old knowledge to inspire people.**

Key vocabulary

Renaissance	A "rebirth" of art and learning (about 1350–1600).
Patron	A person who pays to support artists or scholars.
Humanism	Belief in human potential and the value of classical learning.
Perspective	A technique for showing depth on a flat surface.

1 Box 1

Follow the money

In the simulator: Enter the Ponte Vecchio and the Medici Palace and examine every object.

Why did money matter for the Renaissance?

☐ Rich patrons could pay artists and scholars ☐ Artists had to buy their own schools ☐ Money was not important

✓ **Rich patrons could pay artists and scholars**

2 Box 2

Tour Florence

In the simulator: Enter all 6 places and collect at least 10 objects.

What did you notice?

3 Box 3

Causes and features

Is each card a CAUSE of the Renaissance or a FEATURE of Renaissance art and thought?

Sort: Wealth from trade and banking · Rediscovered Greek and Roman texts · Perspective in paintings · Realistic human figures · Patrons like the Medici · Humanist belief in human potential

Cause	Feature
Wealth from trade and banking Rediscovered Greek and Roman texts Patrons like the Medici	Perspective in paintings Realistic human figures Humanist belief in human potential

4 Box 4

Rebirth of what?

"Renaissance" means rebirth. What was reborn?

☐ Interest in the learning and art of ancient Greece and Rome ☐ The Roman Empire's army ☐ Feudalism

✓ **Interest in the learning and art of ancient Greece and Rome**

5 Box 5

Why Florence? (CER)

Why did the Renaissance begin in Florence? Use evidence from at least two places you visited.

Claim

Look for: at least 10 words

Evidence

Look for: Uses specific evidence; at least 16 words

Reasoning

Look for: at least 14 words

6 Box 6

Legend: humanism Legend only

Quote Pico della Mirandola or Leonardo and explain how the quote shows humanist ideas.

Look for: Explains humanism; an exact quote from the text; at least 25 words

Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

Why did the Renaissance begin in Italian city-states like Florence, and what were its big ideas?

Look for: The Renaissance began in wealthy Italian city-states like Florence, where trade and banking created rich patrons (like the Medici) who funded artists and scholars. Humanists revived ancient Greek and Roman learning, and artists used realism and perspective.

"Renaissance" means rebirth.

Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
 Explorer	5D6-E
 Investigator	S4U-I

**Watch for these misconceptions**

- "The Middle Ages were a time when nothing happened." Universities, cathedrals, and legal ideas like the Magna Carta developed.
- "The Magna Carta gave rights to everyone." At first it mostly protected nobles.
- "The Renaissance happened everywhere at once." It started in Italy and spread over centuries.