

# The Renaissance

# What was going on before the Renaissance?

- War and Plague in Europe
- Strong belief in Christianity
- Events in the Middle Ages cause doubt in existing institutions (the Church)
- Survivors wanted to celebrate life and the human spirit
- Desire to express new spirit and experiment with different styles

# What was the Renaissance?

- Started in Italy and lasted from about 1300 to 1600
- Explosion of creativity in art and writing – “rebirth” or revival
- Bring back the culture of classical Greece and Rome
- People of the Renaissance created new instead of bringing back classics
  - Art
  - Literature
  - Importance of Individual

# Why Italy?

- City States
  - Urban unlike the rest of Europe
  - Economic changes brought by plague
- Merchants
  - Merchants dominated politics
  - Belief in individual achievement
- The Medici
  - Ruling family of Florence
  - Had bank branches in Italy and throughout major cities in Europe
- Greek and Roman Influence
  - Inspiration from ruins
  - Studied ancient Latin manuscripts
  - Preserved Greek manuscripts









# Classical Ideas Influence Renaissance

- Humanism
  - Human potential and achievements
  - History, literature, philosophy
- Worldly Pleasures
  - Middle Ages – plain clothing and food
  - Renaissance – luxuries, music, fine food
- Patrons of the Art
  - Church leaders, merchants, wealthy
  - Financially supported artists



# Renaissance Man and Woman

## Man

- Educated were expected to create art
- Master all areas of study
- Charming, witty, well educated in the classics
- Dance, sing, play music, write poetry, skilled rider, wrestler and swordsman

## Woman

- Educated in the classics, charming
- Inspire art but not create it
- Well educated but little say in politics

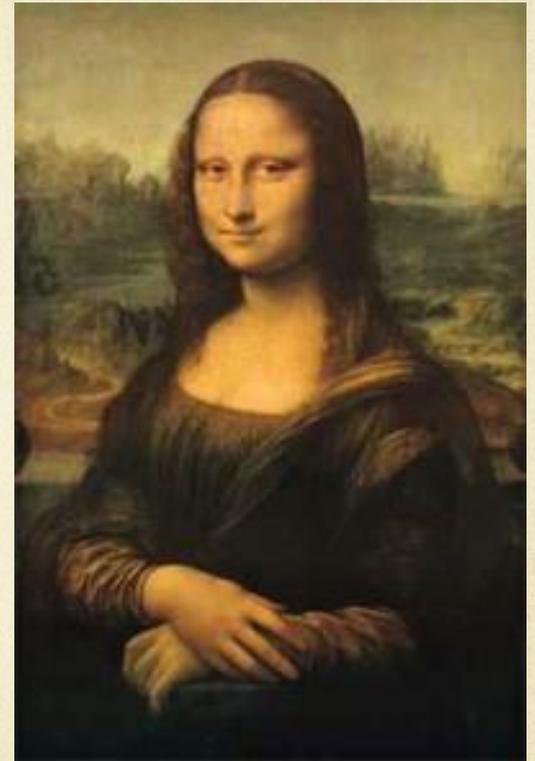
# Changes in Art

Medieval Art



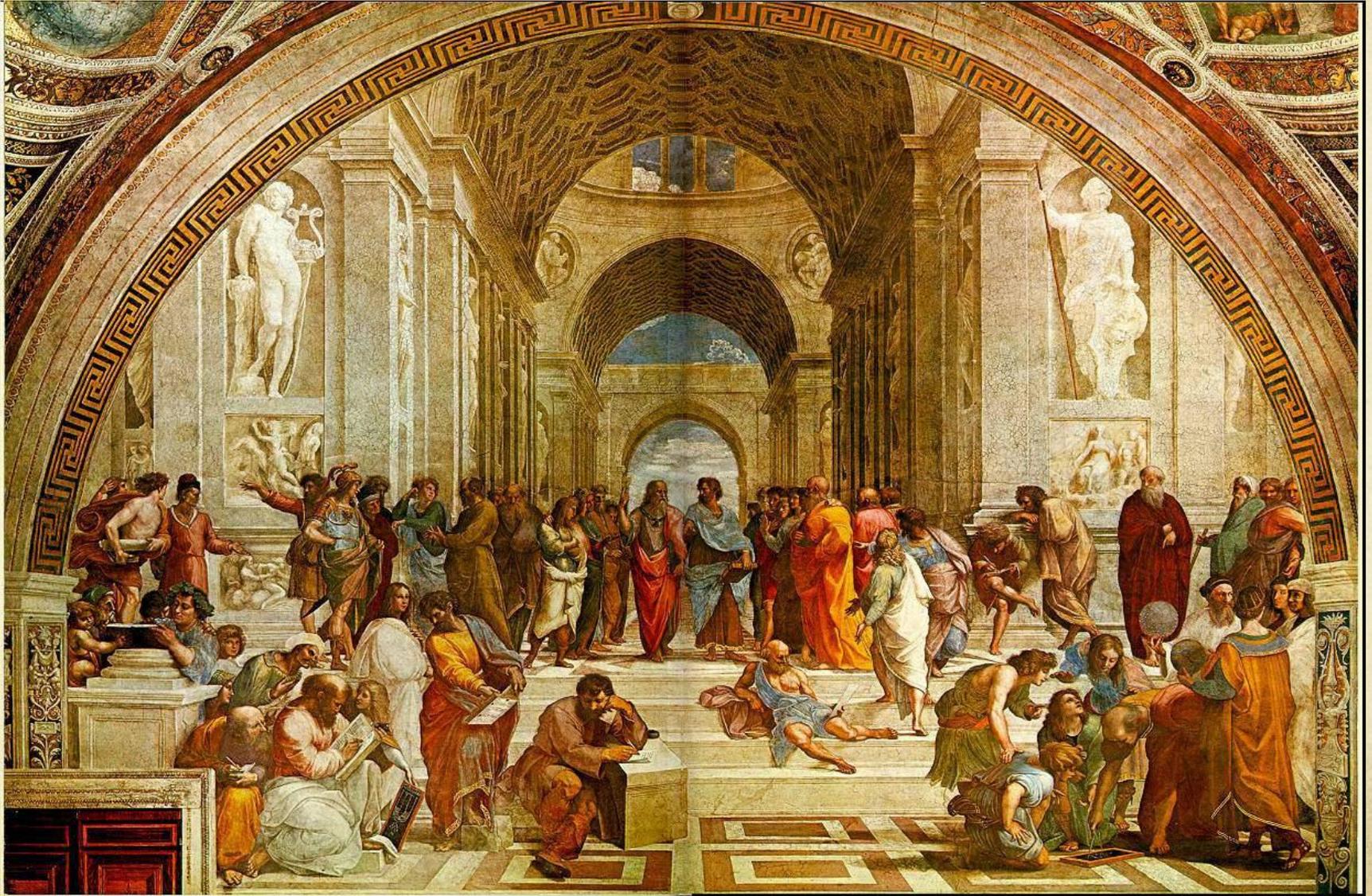
- More realistic than Medieval art
- Perspective – three dimensions on a flat surface
- Began to paint citizens
- Michelangelo, Donatello, Leonardo, Raphael

Renaissance Art



Leonardo DaVinci

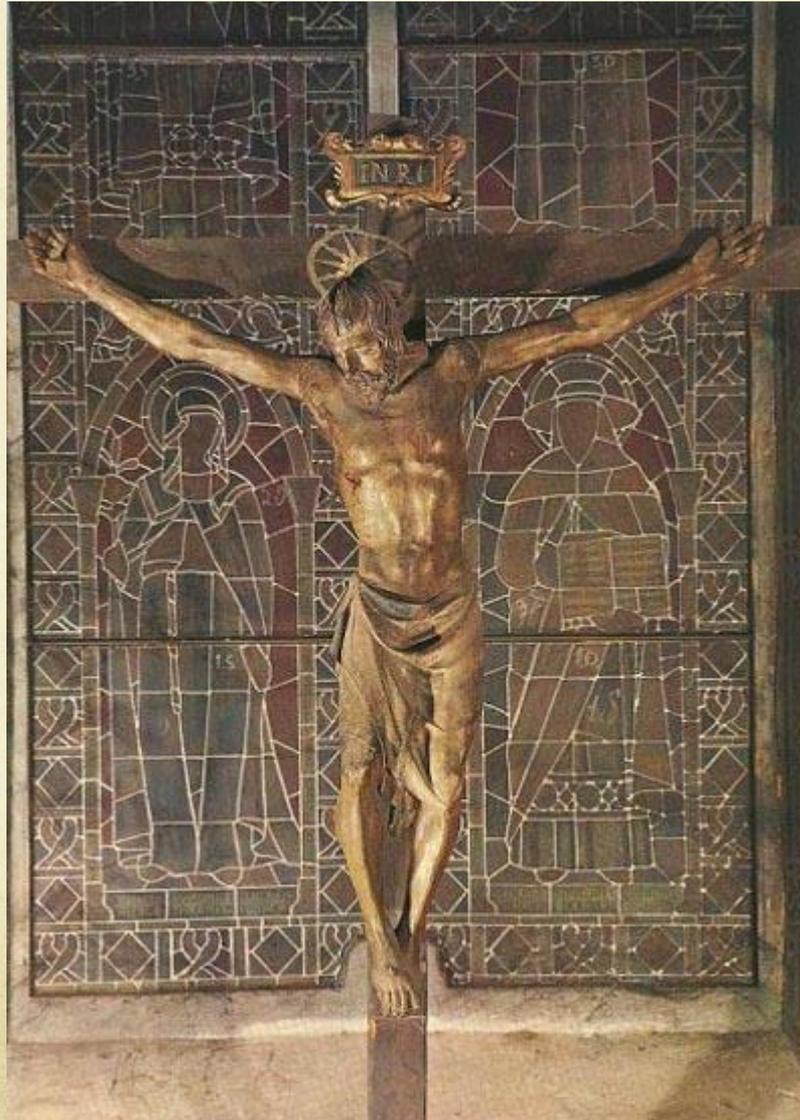
# Raphael





# Donatello

(Sculptor)

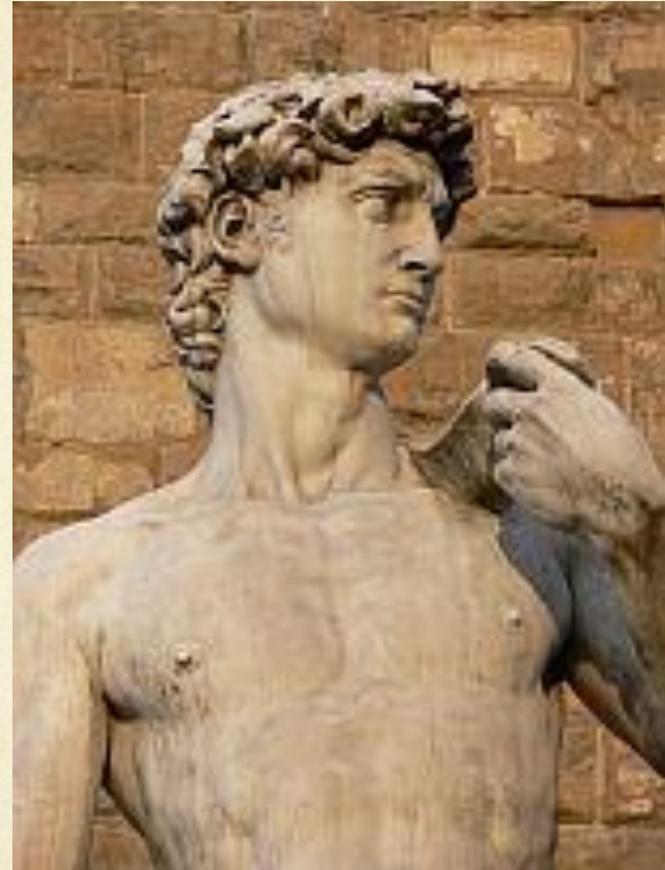


# Michelangelo



# Changes in Literature

- Produced works that reflected their time
- Written in native language (vernacular) instead of Latin
- Writers wrote for self-expression or to portray the personality of their subjects



# Medieval vs. Renaissance

- Draw a Venn Diagram to compare Medieval times with the Renaissance
- Focus on the following:
  - Worldly pleasures
  - Art
  - Literature
  - Society (people's roles, men vs. women)

**Don't forget to fill in the similarities!**

# Machiavelli's *The Prince*

- Political guidebook
- Ruler can gain power and keep it
- World is wicked and a successful prince must be “strong as a lion and shrewd as a fox”
- Not concerned with morally right but politically effective
- Argued that in the real world of power and politics a prince must sometimes mislead the people and lie to his opponents.

“He who neglects what is done for what ought to be done, sooner effects his ruin than his preservation.”

# Analyzing *The Prince*

- With a partner, read the **Primary Source** (*The Prince*) on page 42
- Re-write each sentence in your own words (7 sentences)
  - Stop and write a sentence at each period and semicolon

## Discussion:

- Can you think of any rulers who are feared or loved?
- Can you think of any instances in the world today where leaders have misled their people?

○ “From this arises the question whether it is better to be loved more than feared, or feared more than loved. The reply is, that one ought to be both feared and loved, but as it is difficult for the two to go together, it is much safer to be feared than loved, if one of the two has to be wanting. For it may be said of men in general that they are ungrateful, voluble [changeable], dissemblers [liars], anxious to avoid danger, and covetous of gain; as long as you benefit them, they are entirely yours; they offer you their blood, their goods, their life, and their children, as I have before said, when the necessity is remote; but when it approaches, they revolt. And the prince who has relied solely on their words, without making preparations, is ruined.”

-Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*

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