



Ch. 8 – The Renaissance

1350-1650

Learning Outcomes

3.7 **APPRECIATE** change in the fields of arts and science, with *particular reference* to the significance of the Renaissance.

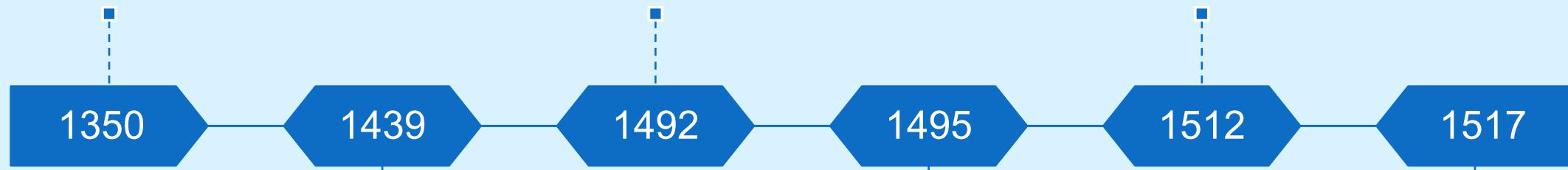
3.11 **EXPLORE** the contribution of technological developments and innovation to historical change.

1.3 **APPRECIATE** their cultural inheritance through recognising historically significant places and buildings and discussing why historical personalities, events and issues are commemorated

1.7 **DEVELOP** historical judgements based on evidence about personalities, issues and events in the past, showing awareness of historical significance

Timeline – The Renaissance

The Renaissance Begins



Johannes Gutenberg invents the printing press.

Da Vinci paints *the Last Supper*

The Protestant Reformation Begins

Introduction

- **Renaissance** (meaning “**rebirth**”) refers to the rebirth of European interest in the civilisations of Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome.
- During this time, the people of Europe began to question the old ways and started to develop new ideas about art, architecture, science, literature and medicine.
- **Humanism** was also introduced. This was the belief or idea that human beings should be at the centre of everything and we should think about the world in terms of the lives people live.
- The Renaissance affected all of Europe but started in Italy.

8.1 The Causes of the Renaissance

Why the Renaissance started in Italy?

- **The ruins of the Roman Empire** were the main inspiration for the Renaissance – many Italians wanted to copy the achievements of their ancestors.
 - Italian is heavily based on Latin, making the ancient documents easier to read.
- **The fall of Constantinople in 1453** came as the capital of the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire was captured by the Ottoman Turks in 1453. Many Greek scholars fled to Italy, bringing priceless ancient Greek and Roman manuscripts with them.
- **Competition between Italian city states** also aided the start of the Renaissance as each city tried to outdo the other in terms of territory, trade, wealth and power.

The role of money and patrons

- **Wealth from trade:** Italy's position in the middle of the Mediterranean meant it had grown rich from silks and spices coming from the East.
 - This meant that merchants had money to spend on art and architecture to show off.
- **New ideas from trade:** Traders brought back ideas from China, India and Arabia who were much more advanced at this time.
 - The Arabic number system was brought to Europe during the Renaissance – the same one we still use today.
- **Patrons:** A **patron** was **a wealthy person who commissioned (hired) an artist to produce a work of art for them.**
 - There were many types of patrons during the Renaissance.
 - Popes like **Julius II** and the Catholic Church
 - Kings and governments
 - Private individuals like the **de Medici family of Florence**

Florence: A Renaissance City

- By 1400, Florence was the wealthiest city in Italy – population was over 100,000.
- Its wealth came from wool trading and banking and the Florentines were willing to spend lavishly on works of art to decorate the city that made them proud.
- Florence was a republic but most of the power lay in the hands of the **de Medici family**.
- They owned the largest bank in the city and used their money to ensure that the city was ran the way they wanted.
- They ensured that the city was ran peacefully with its neighbours as peace was good for trade and business.
- They were very important patrons of the art – **Cosimo de Medici (1389-1464)** and his grandson **Lorenzo (1449-1492)** sponsored artists and architects, and opened schools for the arts.

Questions (pg 100, Artefact Textbook)

1. What does Renaissance mean?
2. Explain the term humanism.
3. List the reasons why the Renaissance began in Italy.
4. What was a patron? Give an example of one from the Renaissance.
5. Look at the list of reasons why the Renaissance originated in Italy. Which of them do you think was the most important? Give reasons for your answer.

8.2 Changes in Art

Differences between medieval and Renaissance Art

Medieval Painting	Renaissance Painting
Themes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Religious images used to teaching the ways of the Catholic Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Religious images as well as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ancient Greek and Roman mythologyPortraits of peopleLandscapesNatural themesScenes from everyday life
Materials and colours	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Paintings were done on wooden panels or onto walls while the plaster was wet (fresco)Pigments were made with egg yolk which dried easily.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Paintings were done on canvas (woven sheet of flax) or fresco.Paint was mixed with oil – this dried more slowly and allowed artists to be more precise, vary colour and add shadingNew technique – sfumato (smoky) involved the blurring or smudging lines and colours to soften textures and create a smoky effect

Differences between medieval and Renaissance Art

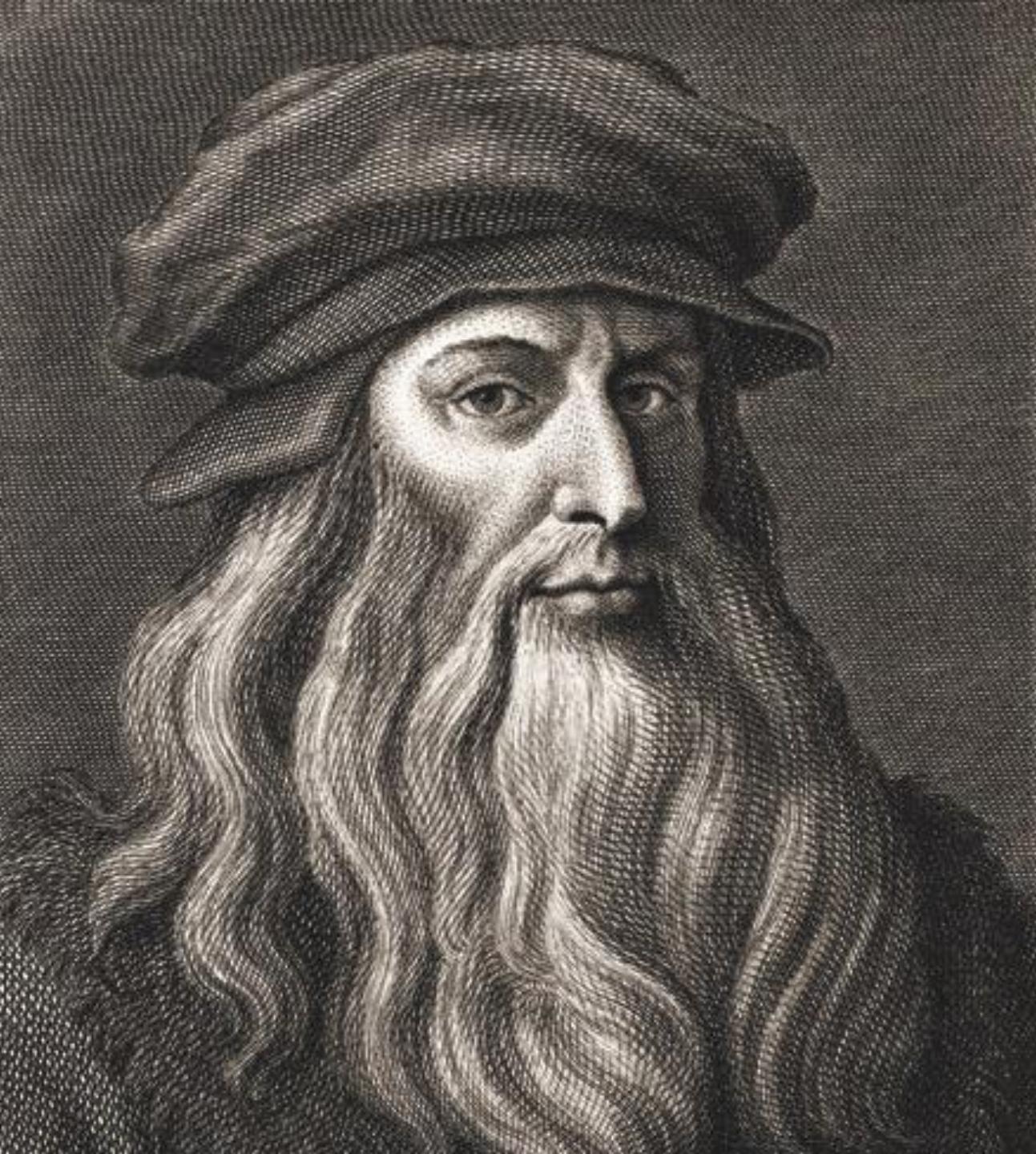
Medieval Painting	Renaissance Painting
	Perspective
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Medieval art was flat and appears two-dimensional	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Renaissance art used perspective to create depth and distance in a paintingThis created a three-dimensional effect
People	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">People did not look 'real'.Their bodies were not to scaleLimbs were often the wrong sizeFaces were often the same and had lifeless expressions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Anatomy was the study of the structure of the human bodyMost Renaissance artists studied the body so it helped them make people look 'real'.They used many details such as wrinkles, muscles, shadows and clothing folds.
THEY KEY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE ART IS REALISM .	

Questions pg 102 (Artefact Textbook)

1. How did subject matter differ between medieval and Renaissance paintings?
2. How was paint made in (a) the Middle Ages and (b) the Renaissance?
3. Explain the following terms:
 - i. Fresco
 - ii. Sfumato
 - iii. Perspective
 - iv. Anatomy
4. How did Renaissance artists make their paintings more realistic?

Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519)

A Life in Time – A Renaissance Artist



Leonardo da Vinci

- Leonardo da Vinci was one of the greatest geniuses of the Renaissance and all of history.
- He was an incredibly skilled painter and a visionary inventor.
- Consider the ideal “Renaissance man” because his interests and skills ranged over so many different areas including maths and physics to art.

Early Life

- Da Vinci was born in 1452 in Vinci, near Florence
- His father wanted him to become a lawyer but Leonardo wanted to be an artist
- At 14, he became an apprentice to Andrea del Verrocchio in Florence.
- With del Verrocchio he was trained to prepare paints, learned to sketch and other artistic skills.
- The master usually painted the main figures in a painting before allowing his apprentices to fill in the smaller figures.
- When Leonardo completed the face of an angel, Verrocchio realised what talent the boy had.

Leonardo in Milan

- Work was difficult to get in Florence especially when the city got involved in a war with its neighbours.
- In 1482, Leonardo went to work for the Duke of Milan, Ludovico Sforza.
- Initially hired as a military engineer, none of his proposed inventions would work.
- He painted *The Virgin of the Rocks in Milan*.
- He also completed *The Last Supper* on the wall of a monastery
- It depicts the moment when Jesus tells the disciples that one of them will betray him.
- The painting shows da Vinci's excellent use of **perspective**.
- However, his experiment with using oil and **tempera** directly onto a dry wall rather than a wet wall meant that the painting soon began peeling off.

Chapter 8: The Renaissance

18



The Virgin of the
Rocks



The Last Supper, which has undergone
many attempts at conservation over the
centuries

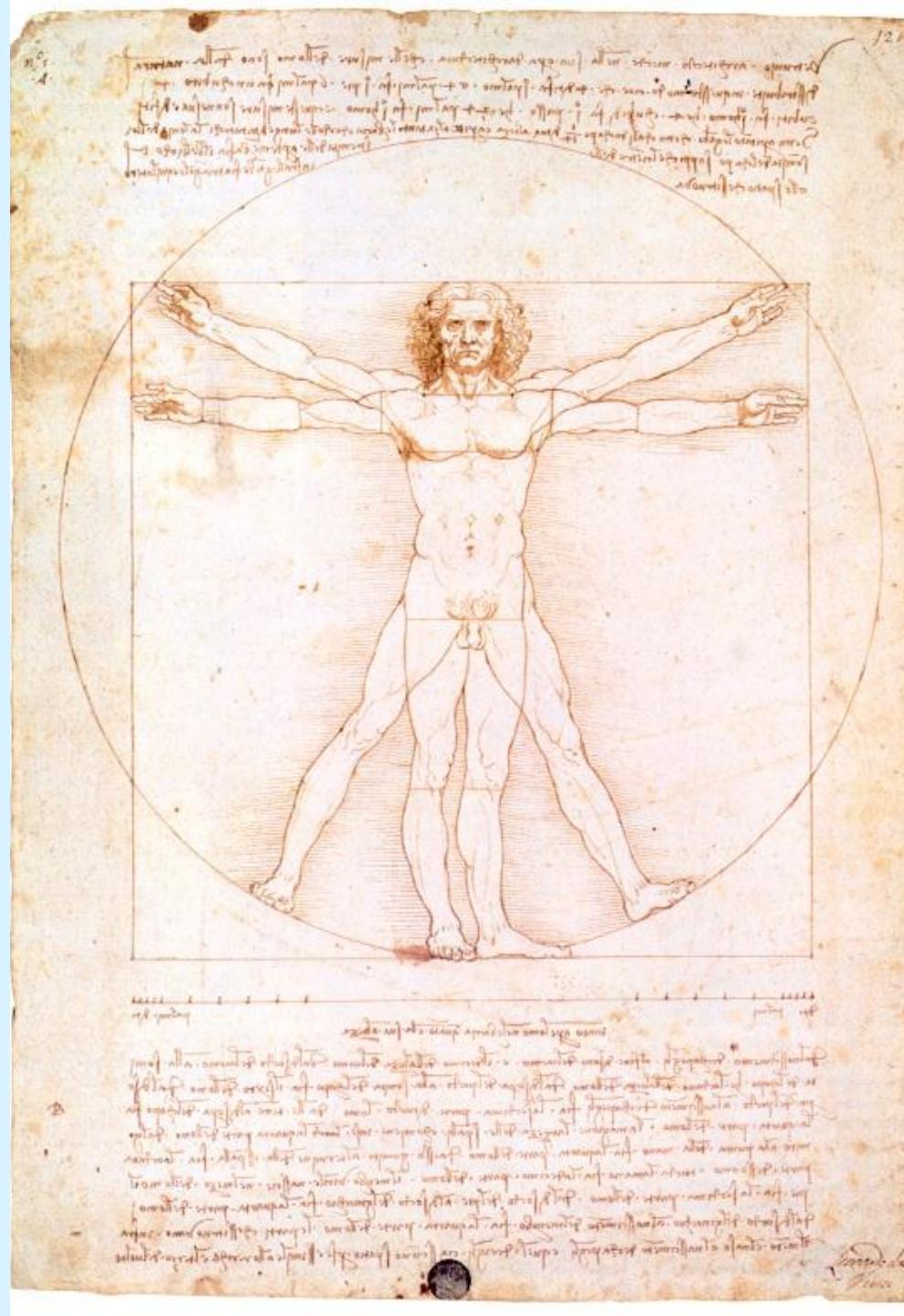
The Mona Lisa

- In 1499, da Vinci returned to Florence where he painted his most famous work, the **Mona Lisa**.
- It was the portrait of the wife of a wealthy Florentine merchant and took two years to complete.
- He used **sfumato** to make the skin appear soft.
- The use of light and shadowing draws focus on her smile and eyes.



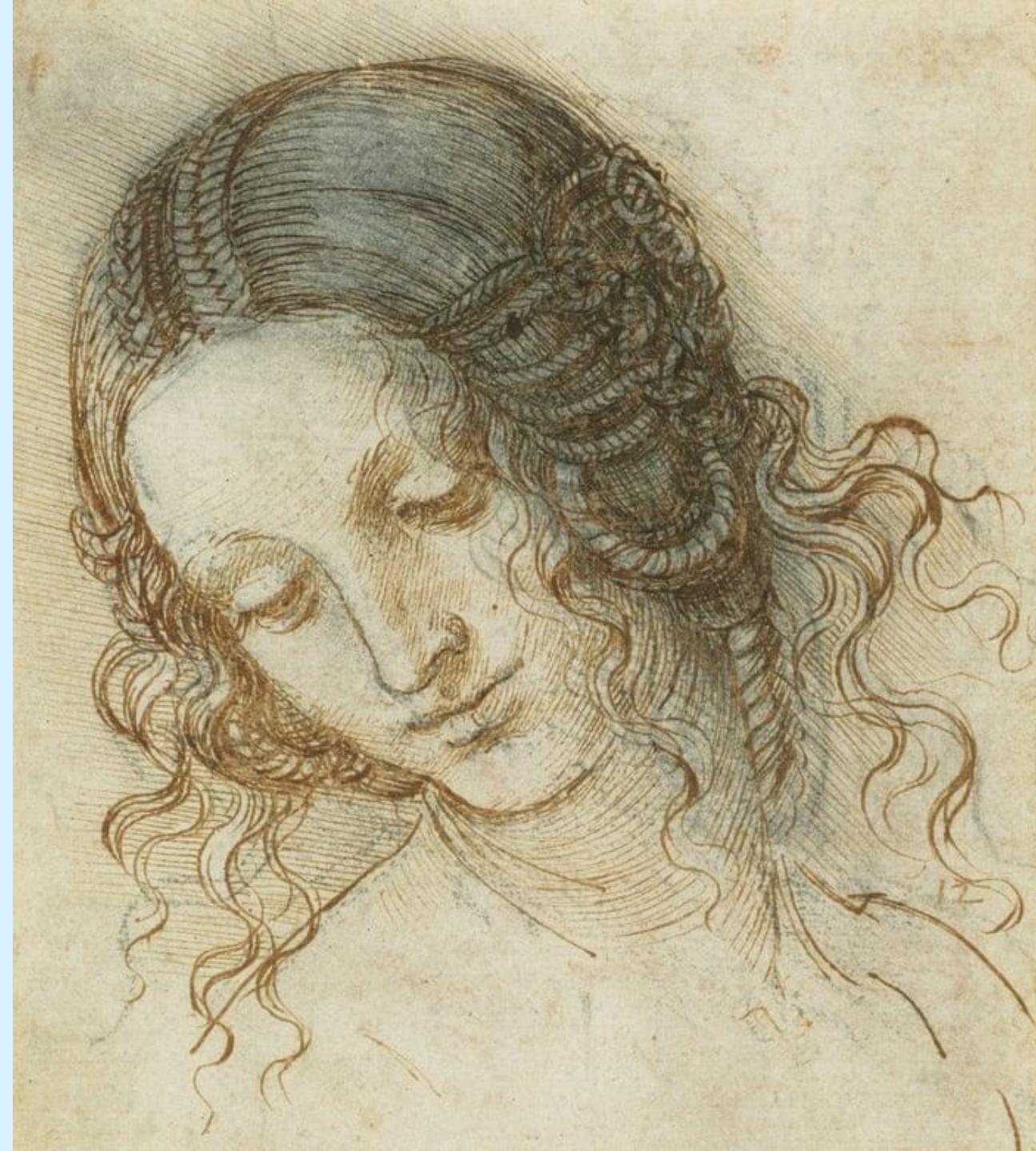
Leonardo's Notebooks

- Over 5,000 pages of Leonardo's notebooks have survived.
- He wrote them in mirror writing and from right to left so that no one else would read them.
- In these notebooks, he made sketches of people, animals and machines.
- He made several detailed drawings of human anatomy to make his human art more realistic.
- A man ahead of his time by centuries, his notebook also detailed tanks, submarines, canons and aeroplanes – centuries before they would be invented and used.



Later Life

- As he got older, Leonardo found it hard to complete tasks
- He left many sketches and works half-completed with only 15 works fully finished.
- He went to live in France in 1516 at the invitation of King Francis I
- He died in 1519 in France.



Questions Pg 104 (Artefact Textbook)

1. Why is Leonardo da Vinci considered the Ideal “Renaissance man”?
2. Describe his training as an artist.
3. Why can *The Last Supper* be considered both a success and failure?
4. What technique is shown in the *Mona Lisa*?
5. Why did Leonardo dissect corpses?
6. Name some of the machines that he imagined and drew in his notebooks.

Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564)

A Life in Time – A
Renaissance Artist



Early Life

- Michelangelo was born near Florence in 1475, the son of a local noble.
- He was apprenticed to the sculptor Domenico Ghirlandaio
- He showed great interest in sculpture and closely studied the work of the great Florentine artist Donatello.
- He produced an excellent copy of an Ancient Roman statue which brought him to the attention of Lorenzo de Medici.
- Lorenzo invited him to live with him and study in his sculpture academy.

Michelangelo's Sculptures

- Michelangelo left Florence for Rome in 1496 after Lorenzo's death.
- A cardinal commissioned him to sculpt the *Pietà* ("sorrow").
- The *Pietà* is a white marble statue showing Mary holding the body of Jesus after he had been taken down from the cross.
- It is considered one of the most realistic and detailed sculptures – especially in the folds of Mary's dress and the boy of Jesus.
- It is housed in **St. Peter's Basilica** in Rome.



Michelangelo's Sculptures

- In 1501, Michelangelo returned to Florence where he won a competition (defeating even da Vinci) to carve a single huge block of white marble.
- He created the statue of **David**, from the biblical story of David and Goliath, to celebrate Florence's victory over France.
- At five meters high, it was the largest free-standing statue since Ancient Rome.
- David is naked, with a slingshot resting on his shoulder and is very realistically detailed (veins, ligaments, muscles, etc).
- The statue represents the ideal human body and provides evidence that Michelangelo made a close study of anatomy.



The Sistine Chapel

- In 1508, Michelangelo began to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, commissioned by Pope Julius II.
- It took him four years to paint this fresco, lying on his back high up on scaffolding.
- The finished ceiling shows scenes from the Old Testament, especially the Book of Genesis, from the creation of Adam and Eve to Noah's flood.
- It contains over 300 different figures.
- Twenty-five years (1536 and 1541) after he completed the Sistine Chapel, he painted ***The Last Judgement*** on the wall behind the alter.

Chapter 8: The Renaissance

28



The Creation of Adam



The Last Judgement

Late Life

- Michelangelo spent the rest of his life in Rome.
- He wrote poetry and designed buildings as an architect – the painting of the Sistine Chapel had damaged his back and lungs.
- Near the end of his life, he was the chief architect for **St. Peter's Basilica**.
- He designed the dome based on Ancient Roman ideas, but died in 1564 before it was completed at the age of 89.
- His body was smuggled back to Florence, where he was placed under a tomb under the epitaph ‘il Divino Michelangelo’ (the divine Michelangelo)

Chapter 8: The Renaissance

30



Questions Pg 106

1. Describe Michelangelo's training as an artist.
2. Why did he travel to Rome in 1496?
3. Name and describe one of Michelangelo's sculptures.
4. Do you think Michelangelo would have found working on the Sistine Chapel difficult? Give a reason for your answer.
5. Why do you think that 'il Divino Michelangelo' was written on his tomb?

8.3 Technological Change: The Printing Press

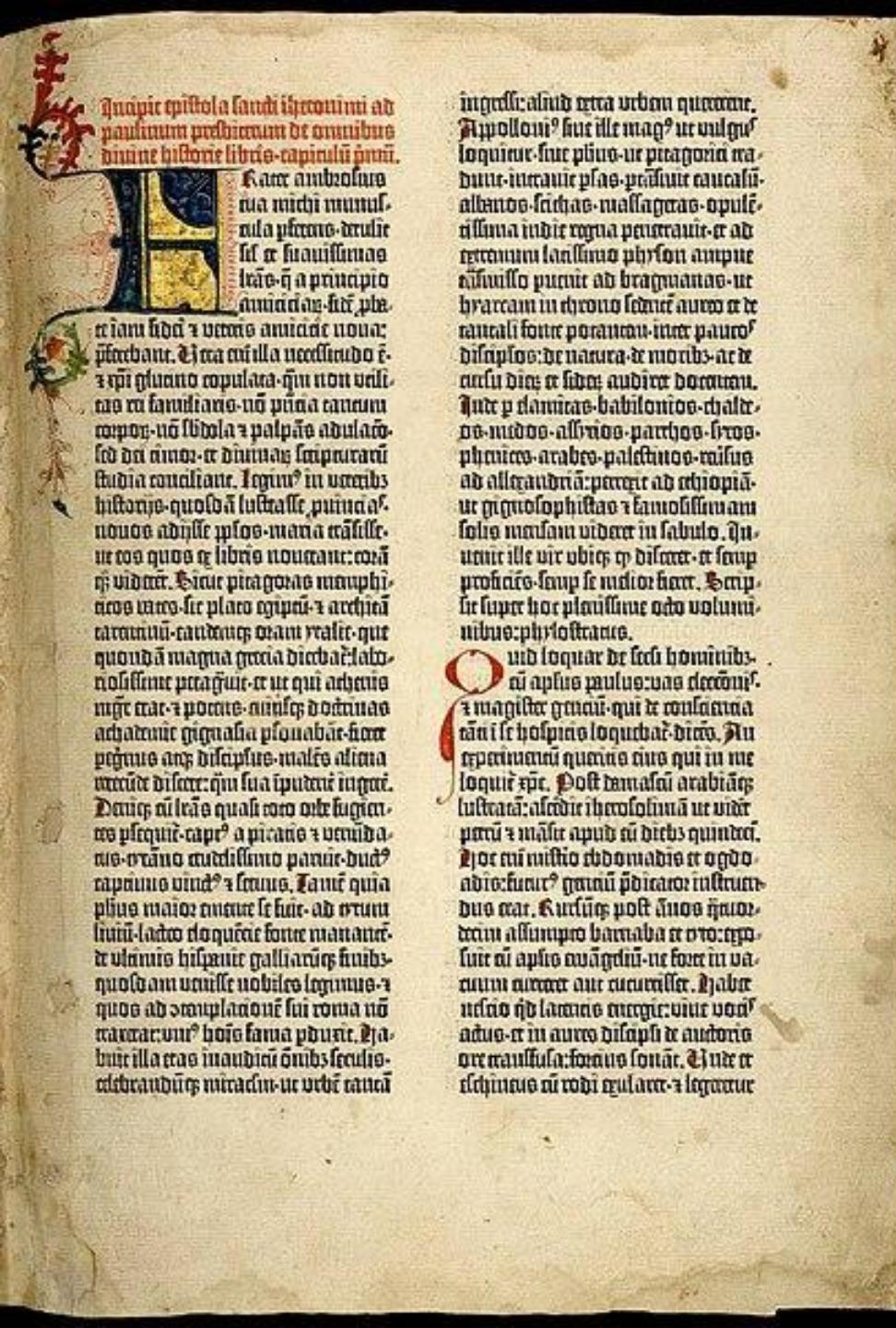
The spread of the Renaissance

- The Renaissance spread from Italy to the rest of Europe
- Countries like France, England, Germany, Scandinavia and other parts of Europe were eager to follow the example set by Italy.
- This was helped by:
 - Artists visiting Italy and learning directly from Italian masters
 - Outside trade with Italy
 - Northern European rulers and merchants becoming patrons to artists in their own countries
 - The invention of the **movable type printing press** – the single most important cause of the spread of the Renaissance.



The Printing Press

- Before the 1400s, all books in Europe had to be copied by hand.
- Because of this, there were very few books in circulation. This made them very valuable while very few people were able to learn how to read and write.
- Johannes Gutenberg (1398-1468) was a German goldsmith.
- In 1450, he is believed to have invented the movable type printing press.
- He placed individual metal letters into a frame to form words, coated them with ink and pressed the frame onto paper.



The Printing Press

- The process could be repeated as many times as copies of the page were needed.
- He then moved the letters around in the frame to make the next page and so on.
- The first book he printed was the Gutenberg Bible.
- The bible contains the Latin version of the Hebrew Old Testament and the Greek New Testament.

The effects of the Printing Press

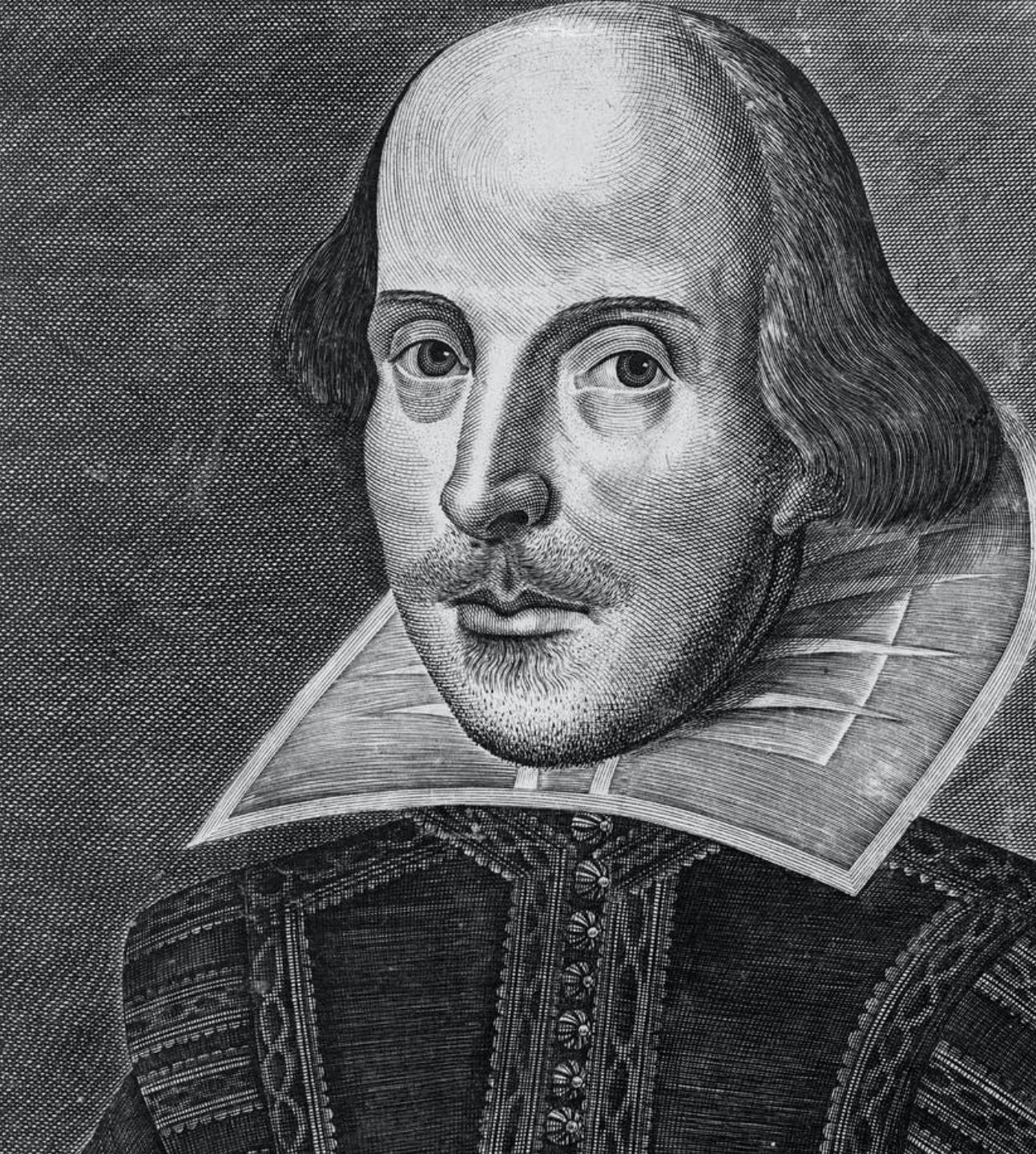
- Gutenberg's invention spread quickly. By 1500, every major European city had their own printing press.
- This resulted in:
 - Printed books were much cheaper than handwritten manuscripts, allowing more people to buy them
 - More people learned to read and write
 - People read more and were introduced to new ideas.
 - Fiction became more popular as people began to read for entertainment.
 - The Catholic Church's control over learning and ideas declined. People started to challenge the Church teachings as we will learn next year.
 - The use of Latin declined as writers wrote in the ***vernacular*** (**language as spoken by people in their native countries**)

Questions Pg 108 (Artefact Textbook)

1. Before the printing press, how were books produced in Europe?
2. Describe how printers used Gutenberg's printing press.
3. Name and explain two effects of the invention of the printing press.
4. What is the vernacular?

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

A Life in Time – A
Renaissance Writer



Early Life

- William Shakespeare is considered one of the greatest writers ever in the English language.
- He was born in Stratford-on-Avon, England in 1564.
- Little is known about his life before he got married, at 18 years of age, to Anne Hathaway, the daughter of a wealthy landlord.
- After the births of their three children, Shakespeare moved to London to become an actor and write plays and poetry.

Life in the theatre

- In London, Shakespeare joined a company of actors called **The King's Men**.
- Actors both acted and wrote their own plays and he wrote his first, **The Comedy of Errors**, in 1594.
- He quickly became the most popular and famous playwright in England.
- His work was even performed at the Royal Court.
- In 1599, the company opened a theatre called The Globe.
- It was a round building with an open roof and could hold 2,000 people, who stood during performances.

Shakespeare's works

- Shakespeare wrote 38 plays, all of which were performed at the Globe. These include:
- Comedies such as *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *The Merchant of Venice*.
- Tragedies such as *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth* and *Othello*.
- Histories; some based on English history, like *Henry V* and *Richard III*, and others set in the ancient past, like *Julius Caesar*.

Shakespeare's works

- As well as the plays, Shakespeare wrote 154 sonnets.
- A sonnet is a fourteen-line rhyming poem form popular during the Renaissance.
- Shakespeare's works made him rich and he retired to his home town, where he died in 1616.
- His plays and poems are still staged and studied all over the world today.

Questions Pg 109 (Artefact Textbook)

1. Where and when was William Shakespeare born?
2. Where were Shakespeare's plays performed?
3. Name the three types of plays he wrote and give an example of each.
4. Why do you think his work is still performed and studied today?

8.4

Health, Medicine and Science in The Renaissance

Medicine during the Renaissance

- The Black Plague gave cause for people to question the practices of medicine that had existed from the Ancient Era.
- The 1500s saw true change start to take place when doctors such as **Andreas Vesalius (1514-1564)** began to investigate anatomy
 - *On the Fabric of the Human Body* contained 270 accurate drawings of the human bones, muscles, veins and organs.
 - Other Renaissance doctors followed Vesalius' lead and made further discoveries.
 - **William Harvey (1578-1657)** discovered that the heart pumped blood around the body.
 - The discoveries by such doctors led to vast improvements in medicine.

Questions Pg 110 (Artefact Textbook)

- What contribution did Andreas Vesalius make to medical knowledge?
- What is anatomy?
- What did William Harvey discover?
- Reread the section on medieval medicine in chapter 6 (the Middle Ages). What are the main differences between medieval and Renaissance medicine?

Science during the Renaissance

- The influence of humanism meant that people were very interested in understanding the world around them.
- Since ancient times, people had believed that our planet was the centre of the solar system with the sun and other planets rotated around it.
- The Catholic Church held this view as it supported their belief that God had created the Earth and humankind and made them central.
- As astronomers began to examine the skies, this belief was challenged.
- This challenge would make a series of challenges that would come to shake the power of the Catholic Church in the 1500s.

Galileo Galilei (1564-1642)

A life in the times –
Renaissance Scientist



Early Life and Work

- Galileo was born in Pisa in 1564 and studied mathematics at Pisa University.
- He developed a number of theories about space and time, including the Law of Falling Objects.
- He proved that all objects fall to the ground at the same speed regardless of weight, supposedly by dropping objects from the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

The astronomer

- While Professor of Mathematics in Padua, Galileo heard of a Dutch invention called the **telescope**.
- He improved the device to magnify objects many hundreds of times using increasingly small and powerful lenses.
- He used his telescope to study the planets and stars (astronomy) and made several important discoveries which he published in *The Starry Messenger* in 1610:
 - The surface of the moon has craters and mountains
 - Jupiter has four moons
 - Saturn has rings
 - There are spots on the sun.

Galileo vs the Catholic Church

- In the 1540s, a Polish priest and astronomer, **Nicolaus Copernicus** declared the Earth rotates around the sun.
- Copernicus published it at the very end of his life for fear of the Catholic Church's reaction.
- Galileo read the book by Copernicus in 1632.
- The Church was furious; **Pope Urban VIII** ordered that Galileo be put on trial before the **Inquisition (a Church Court)**.
- He was eventually convicted of **heresy** (knowingly holding a view that went against the official teachings of the Catholic Church).

Galileo vs the Catholic Church

- Galileo was terrified of being burned at the stake, the usual punishment for heretics.
- He eventually agreed to say he was wrong (he recanted)
- Galileo was tried twice before Pope Urban VIII ordered that Galileo was kept under house arrest.
- In 1638, he went totally blind and spent the last six years without his sight.
- He died in 1642, age 77

Questions Pg 111

1. Before the Renaissance, what did people believe about the relationship between the Earth and the sun?
2. What was Galileo's Law of Falling Objects?
3. Name two of his astronomical discoveries.
4. Why did his book *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems* get him into trouble with the Catholic Church?
5. What does Galileo's trial by the Inquisition in the 1630s tell us about the Church at the time?

Albert Dürer (1471-1528)

A Life in Time – A
Renaissance Artist
Outside Italy



Early Life

- Dürer was born on 21 May, 1471 in Nuremberg, south Germany.
- The son of a goldsmith, he began his training in drawing and woodcutting.
- When he was fifteen, he became an apprentice to the best known artist in the city of Nuremberg.
- After his training, he travelled to other European countries, including Italy, where he learned from other artists.



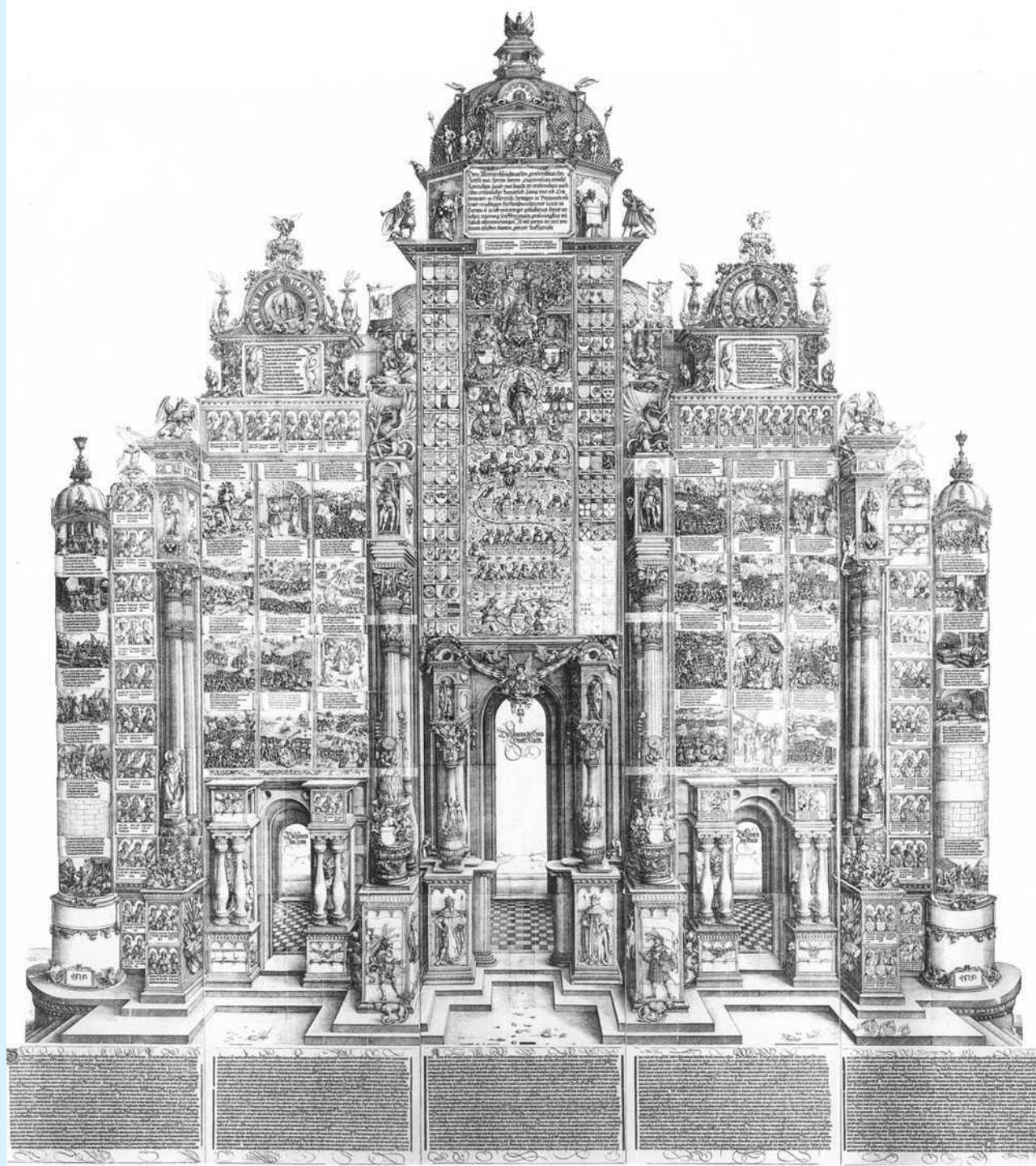
Life in Nuremberg

- Dürer developed a great talent for engravings and set up his own workshop in Nuremberg.
- His engravings were made from wood or copper.
- Some of his best-known engravings are his 18 engravings of the Apocalypse cycle
- The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse is one of his most notable engravings.



Commissioned Works

- Like other artists, he needed patrons to support his life as an artist.
- The first of these were **Prince Frederick of Saxony** who commissioned many religious pieces.
- His greatest commissions came from **Emperor Maximilian**, the most powerful leader in Europe at the time.
- He was commissioned to create the **Triumphal Arch**, the largest woodcut ever made.
- Dürer went on to become a firm supporter of Martin Luther (who we will learn about next year).



Later Life

- Dürer also completed lots of paintings including self-portraits and famous drawings of plants and animals.
- One of his famous ones is called the Young Hare – you can see how much detail he put into it.
- Dürer died in 1528 in Nuremberg and was buried in St. John's churchyard.



8.5 Summary

Summary

- In this chapter, we have learned about how the Renaissance changed history.
- *Changes in art*
 - During the Renaissance, the focus of art was on the accurate recreation of the world in painting and sculpture, and artists created new techniques to achieve this.
 - For example, da Vinci used perspective to great effect in *The Last Supper* and sfumato in *The Mona Lisa*.

Summary

- *New discoveries*
 - Renaissance people began to question beliefs from the Middle Ages.
 - They made many important discoveries in the fields of science and medicine.
 - Their scientific method (observe, measure, theorise and experiment) is the same basic approach used by today's scientists.
 - Galileo proved that the Earth rotated around the sun but this brought him into conflict with the Catholic Church.
 - In Medicine, as doctors performed autopsies on bodies and carried out detailed examinations of how the body worked, a completely new understanding of how to treat injuries and disease was developed.

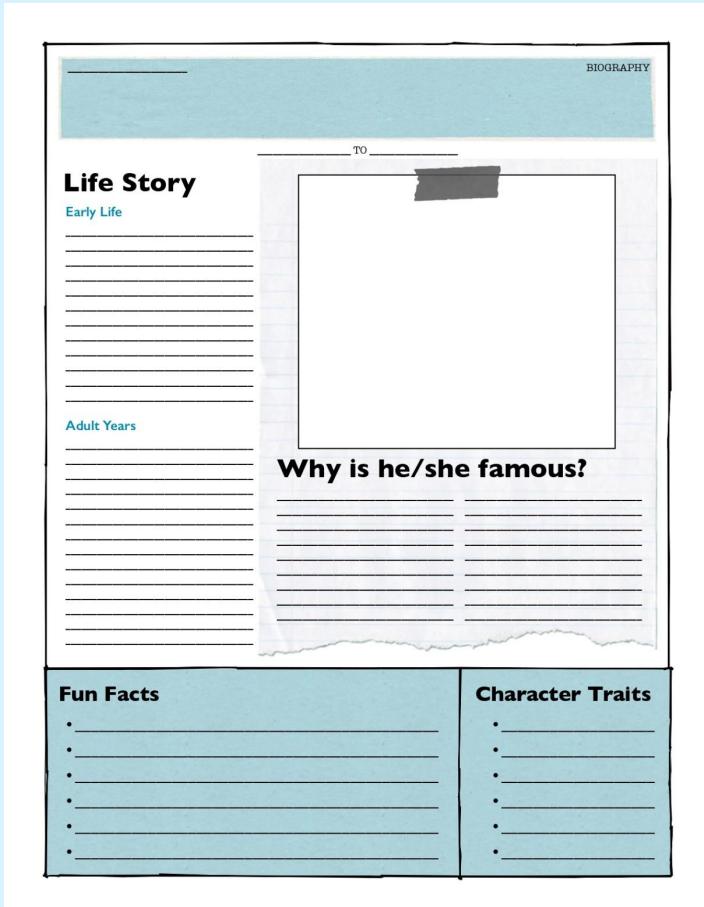
Summary

- *Spread of knowledge and ideas*
 - The single most important invention of the Renaissance was the printing press.
 - More people wrote books, more people learned to read, and ideas and new knowledge spread quickly throughout Europe.
 - We will see in the next two chapters how new ideas led to voyages of exploration and to a direct challenge to the Church's authority in the Reformation.

Project

- Pick one of the following:
 - [Leonardo da Vinci](#)
 - [Michelangelo Buonarroti](#)
 - [Albert Dürer](#)
 - [William Shakespeare](#)
 - [Galileo Galilei](#)
- Using the Renaissance figure you have chosen, recreate **one** of their most famous pieces in form of:
 - Character poster
 - Minecraft building, sculpture or invention
 - Lego building or invention
 - Painting/Drawing

Character Poster



- Name your chosen Renaissance Figure
- What years were the active?
- Give two or three sentences for
 - Early Life
 - Adult Years
 - Why is he/she famous?
- Tell me about 6 fun facts and character traits.

Minecraft or Lego = Building, Sculpture or Invention

- This is an example of a miniature version of St. Peter's Basilica and David
- You can make a sculpture, building or invention from the Renaissance Era.

