It first started in Italy and later spread throughout Europe The word 'Renaissance' means 'revival' or 'rebirth'. Definition The Renaissance refers to the revival of the ancient Greco-Roman civilization. Europeans innovated and carried forward the classical civilization Laid the foundations for development of modern European civilization and was the transitional period from Medieval Times to Modern Times Europeans were keen to revive the ancient Greco-Roman civilization Revival of the ancient Greco-Roman civilization They studied and applied the Greco-Roman theories and art styles to their works Europeans were no longer God centred but were more concerned with worldly affairs Main features of the Emphasizing humanism Regarded humans as the centre of the universe This human centred idea was known as 'humanism' Renaissance Humans should have independent thinking and develop their capacities Influenced by humanism, Europeans stressed the spirit of inquiry and rational thinking. Challenging tradition Europeans challenged traditional ideas and the Church teachings, and proposed new ideas Many important scientific discoveries and inventions were made Many peasants left their manors and lived in towns Decline of feudal society The feudal society declined during late Medieval Times Became freemen and thus had greater freedom and more time for art and learning Arab scholars in Medieval Times had a good knowledge of science, mathematics, medicine and astronomy Arab civilization was more advanced than European civilization. Spread of Eastern knowledge European Christians started Crusades between the 11th and 13th centuries Arab's studies and the legacies of ancient civilizations the Arab scholars preserved were brought to Europe through the Crusades Cursades Broadened Europeans' horizons and revived their interest in ancient Greco-Roman art and learning Encouraged the exchange of knowledge between Europe and the Arab world The ports and towns on the routes of the Crusades developed rapidly Many Italian city-states became major trading centres between Europe and Asia Rise of wealthy city-states and class Wealthy merchants and bankers emerged in Italy and other European countries Causes of the Renaissance They were concerned with worldly life, and had money to support art and science Since the 12th century, universities built by government or merchants had emerged in European towns Education was no longer fully controlled by the Church Broadened university students' horizons Rise of Universities University teach subjects other than Biblical teachings, such as medicine, law and philosophy in a free environment. Encourage scholars to find out more about ancient Greco-Roman civilization Universities also kept many books about ancient Greco-Roman civilization Europeans gained new knowledge at universities and from the advanced Arab civilization. Weakened the influence of the Church on people's minds. They started to question the teachings of Church Decline of Church's influence The failure of the Crusades further undermined the prestige of the Church. The political influence of the Church Some European rulers refused to pay taxes to it and defied the Pope openly The Renaissance started on the Italian Peninsula and spread to other parts of Europe. The Italian Peninsula was the birthplace of the ancient Roman civilization Birthplace of Renaissance It preserved many valuable ancient Roman Legacies It had many rich city-states. The wealthy class supported the work of artists and scholars During the Renaissance, changes were first made in literature Literary works mostly related to religion, including biographies of saints, prayers and hymns. Early Medieval Times (Before the Renaissance): God-centred They were written in Latin Only priests and scholars could read and compose these works Renaissance writer were influenced by humanism Developments in literature used ancient Greco-Roman literary skills wrote about worldly people, affairs and things written in native languages Literature became popular The Renaissance The Renaissance: Human-centred Poem about the sights he saw while passing (14th-17th centuries) through the 'Hell' and 'Heaven' Divine Comedy (Representative: Dante) The unfair affairs in society (social inequalities) Novel of short stories Record everyday lives The Decameron (Representative: Boccaccio) Representative people / work telling stories about the wrongdoing of the king, noble and the church Play about two young Italian star-crossed lovers Romeo and Juliet (representative: Shakespeare) Show different aspects of life Early Medieval Times (Before the Paintings were mainly about religion Renaissance): God-centred The style was not realistic Paintings had diverse themes **Paintings** Used new techniques of perspective and shadowing The style was more threedimensional and realistic Painters studied the human body to paint lifelike human body and facial expressions The Renaissance: Human-centred Mona Lisa and Last Supper (Representative: Leonardo da Vinci) Last Judgement (Representative: Michelangelo) Representative people / work School of Athens (Representative: Raphael) Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Raphael were known as the 'three master artists' Developments Early Medieval Times (Before the Renaissance): God-centred The main theme was about religion of Renaissance The theme was still from the Bible Sculpture But they focused on the facial expressions and body movement of figures under the influence of humanism Developments in art The sculptures were realism The Renaissance: Human-centred Sculptors studied the human body and ancient Greco-Roman sculptures in detail Made use of light and shadow to create lifelike figures, body movements and facial expressions Representative work: Pietâ Buildings were mainly built in the Gothic style Early Medieval Times (Before the Renaissance): God-centred Gothic buildings had tall pointed towers, pointed arches, flying buttresses and stained glass Christians believed that tall pointed towers brought then closer to God Buildings were proportional, harmonious and rational Architecture Architects more focused mirrored the beauty of human body Revived the ancient Greco-Roman architectural style The Renaissance: Human-centred Buildings are characterized by stone pillars, pediments, semi-circular arches and domes Colonnades were built around symmetrical plazas Representative work: St. Peter's Basilica in Italy Church had translated many classics of ancient science, and integrated them with theology Church used theology to explain the universe Early Medieval Times (Before the Renaissance): God-centred Geocentrism: the Earth was the centre of the Universe Church claimed that diseases were God's punishments Prohibited dissection of the 'sacred' human body Developments in natural science Scholars studied the original ancient Greek classics and found many differences from the Church's translation Scholars verify ancient theories through observation and research, which was known as 'scientific inquiry' Fracastoro proved that diseases were spread by bacteria which bred on decayed matter The Renaissance: Human-centred Medicine Vesalius dissected dead human bodies, and described in detail the human skeleton, organs and muscles Copernicus proposed the theory of heliocentrism, stating that the Sun was the centre of the universe **Astronomy** Galileo made telescopes to observe the universe and carried out experiments to affirmed heliocentrism Europeans revived the ancient Greco-Roman civilization and made great achievements in various areas Laying the foundation for modern Europeans civilization Europeans civilization developed rapidly Renaissance scholars stated that the aim of education was not to train clergy but talented 'Renaissance man' Rise of humanistic education More people wanted to studied in non-church schools to acquire worldly knowledge Influence of Renaissance Develop European education and culture The Renaissance freed the minds of Europeans Intellectual liberation They no longer obeyed traditional authority blindly, and valued rational thinking and spirit of exploration

Led to the Reformation, the Voyages of Discovery, the Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment.

The Renaissance was a cultural and intellectual movement that took place in Europe between the 14th-17th centuries (late Medieval Times)