The Renaissance

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1. “**Renaissance**”: rebirth; explosion of cultural achievement in Europe in the 14th through 16th centuries

2. “**The David**”: 17 foot tall statue made by Michelangelo out of white marble; reflects humanist ideas

3. “**The Last Supper**”: painting by Leonardo da Vinci; study in the art and science of perspective

4. “**The Pieta**”: a marble sculpture of Mary, seated, holding the dead body of Jesus in her arms; sculpted by Michelangelo

5. “**The Prince**”: a short political treatise about political power – how the ruler should gain, maintain and increase it; written by Niccolo Machiavelli, it explores the problems of human nature and concludes that human beings are selfish and out to advance their own interests

6. **Botticelli**: one of the leading painters of the Florentine Renaissance; developed a highly personal style; best known work is the The Birth of Venus

7. **Brunelleschi**: Italian architect celebrated for his work during the Florentine Renaissance; greatest achievement is the octagonal ribbed dome of the Florence cathedral

8. **city-state**: a city with political and economic control over the surrounding countryside

9. **Classicism**: revived interest in the accomplishments of ancient Greece and Rome

10. **classics**: ancient Greek and Latin culture, architecture, literature, language, ideas/philosophy, etc.

11. **Da Vinci**: true Renaissance man – gifted in math, painting, drawing, philosophy, physics and inventing; had a large impact both in his lifetime and after his death; painted the best-known picture in the Western world – the Mona Lisa

12. **Florence**: Italy’s leading cultural center during the Renaissance; important for trade and commerce; dominated by the Medici family

13. **fresco painting**: new Renaissance technique in which painting is done on wet, fresh plaster with water based paints

14. **Humanism**: belief that humans are the center of the universe

15. **humanist**: of or pertaining to a philosophy asserting human dignity and man’s capacity for fulfillment through reason and scientific method and often rejecting religion

16. **Individualism**: the idea that every person can shape his or her own destiny, and has value

17. **Johann Gutenberg**: man who created the printing press and changed the production and reading of books

18. **Machiavelli**: Renaissance writer; formerly a politician; wrote *The Prince*

19. **Medici Family**: ruled Florence during the Renaissance; became wealthy from banking, spent a lot of money on art and controlled Florence for about 300 years

20. **Michelangelo**: Italian painter, sculptor and architect of the 15th and 16th centuries; sculpted the David, painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel; considered to be one of the greatest artists of all time

21. **patron of the arts**: person who financially supports the arts

22. **perspective**: point of view or general standpoint from which different things are viewed, physically or mentally; the appearance to the eye of various objects at a given time, place or distance

23. **printing press**: 15th century invention which revolutionized the ability to print information which in turn affected the speed of the spread of information itself

24. **Rafael**: Renaissance painter; best known for his frescoes in the Vatican

25. **realism**: artistic representation that aims for visual accuracy

26. **Renaissance Man**: well-rounded individual; a person well-educated in the liberal arts

27. **Secularism**: belief that life on earth is more important than the afterlife and that the world is to be enjoyed

28. **Sistene Chapel**: ceiling of a chapel in the Vatican painted by Michelangelo of scenes from the bible

29. **Skepticism**: idea that humans started to question everything as they challenged tradition and authority

30. **Vatican City**: headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church; located within the city limits of Rome but ruled independently