

2017-2018 Diocese of Marquette Catholic Schools
History Curriculum – Sixth Grade

Unit 9: Renaissance, Reformation, & the Modern World
All Ye Lands – Origins of World Cultures
Chapter 9

Unit 9 Description

- The Renaissance ushered in a rebirth of antiquity in a flourishing of human artistry, casted aspersions on the middle ages, and sought greater autonomy of the individual through humanism, all of which provided the patterns the subsequent Reformation would take up. The Protestant Reformation was a combination of legitimate qualms with Rome, a personal hubris, and political intrigue among the Germans. The Catholic Reformation was a healthy reform of offices and practices, a clarification of doctrine, and a series of organic developments by individual saints.

Teacher Resources

- *The Renaissance* – Paul Johnson
- *The History of the Renaissance World: From the Rediscovery of Aristotle to the Conquest of Constantinople* – Susan Wise Bauer
- *Michelangelo: The Artist, the Man and his Times* – William Wallace
- *Isabella: The Warrior Queen* – Kirstin Downey
- *The Wars of the Roses: The Fall of the Plantagenets and the Rise of the Tudors* – Dan Jones
- *Rebel in the Ranks* – Brad Gregory
- *The Children of Henry VIII* – Alison Weir
- *Characters of the Reformation* – Hillaire Belloc
- *Decet Romanum Pontificem*
- “Introduction” from *Cajetan Responds*
- “Address to the Christian Nobility” – Martin Luther
- “On Christian Liberty” – Martin Luther
- “The Thirty-Nine Articles”
- “Act of Supremacy” – Henry VIII
- *Heroes of the Catholic Reformation: Saints Who Renewed the Church* – Joseph Pearce
- Council of Trent documents
- *The Life of Elizabeth I* – Alison Weir
- *Elizabeth I* – Paul Johnson

Advice to Teacher

Students are naturally awestruck by what the Renaissance artists were able to accomplish, especially 500 years ago, and for many this is their first treatment of art history which they find fascinating. The goal is for the students to see that these expressions in art are a celebration of man himself, the artistic manifestation of humanism. In some ways, this spirit has remained with the West to today as life’s focus shifted to the individual. Such humanism also had its civics

component by reviving Ancient Roman politics. This humanism in general would spread north, giving the Protestant Reformers the more autonomous view of man that shirked institutions, authority, and traditions in favor of individual interpretation of Scripture.

Regarding exploration, try to present the discoveries as the explorers would have perceived them. They had no idea at first that they had found another two continents, nor did they know the extent once they became aware of the land's novelty. *Nota bene*: The idea that the world was flat had been abandoned by the ancient Greeks (though of course some still may have believed that); but any western navigator and people believed the world was spherical.

The situation in the Church was one of vulnerability, not only due to her own corruptions but also to the spirit of humanism of the Renaissance, the scandals of the Avignon Papacy and Great Schism, and the play made by monarchs against Church authority. At the same time, the papacy was preoccupied with the renewed threat from the Turks in the East. Against this backdrop comes Fr. Martin Luther, an Augustinian monk-priest who took up the spirit of previous heretics of the 1400s and, out of his own insecurity regarding sin, first attacked the selling of indulgences and then the Church itself. As other revolts arose, Luther made an ally of the princes against the papacy, thus securing for him the political and military muscle to back up his revolt. Note that Luther had not intended at first to make a break from Rome, but rather sought genuine reform. Moreover, it's not as though the Reformation came out of nowhere. It had its precursors, conditions, and timing for a reason. For instance, without Gutenberg's printing press, Luther would never have had succeeded. The Reformation might be seen as a Barbarian vs. Roman conflict of cultures.

The English Reformation could be broken down by ruler. It moved from a simple severance from Rome under Henry VIII to a change in doctrine under Edward VI. Then there are Mary & Elizabeth. It's highly enjoyable for students to learn about the English Reformation in this fashion.

To set up the Catholic Reformation, present it in two strands. Strand one is the organic or spontaneous response to Protestantism through individual persons, saints, and religious communities. The second strand is the Church's formal response through the Council of Trent, which sought to (a) reform the Church from abuses and (b) clarify doctrine, both done in light of the charges against her by the protestant reformers.

Naturally-Occurring Questions (1st & 2nd Tiers) – “Problems”

Backdrop – Setting the Stage

- Maps
 - Renaissance Italy
 - Centers and spreading of the reformation
- Places & Geographical Features
- Insights into Everyday Life
- Existing Circumstances & Situations
 - Political
 - Factions aligned based on support for the Holy Roman Emperor or the Papacy
 - Cultural

- Economic

Particulars

- Persons
- Vocabulary
- Biographies to be Read
- Primary Sources
 - Excerpts from Machiavelli's *The Prince*
 - Columbus' diary

Major Actions & Events

Key Tales & Stories

Objects that Evoke Wonder

- Artistic methods
- The sheer outpouring of production
- The mastery and skill of Renaissance artists
- The political factions and fighting in Italy and that Italy, like the Germans of the next two centuries, became a battleground for monarchical powers of Europe
- The growing wealth of Northern Italy
- The corruption of the papacy and yet its unwavering commitment to doctrinal truth
- What was required to sail a ship of exploration
- The stories of the explorers & the experiences of discovering a new land
- The perfect conditions for a revolt
- How such a little beginning led to such a disastrous and seemingly permanent change
- The frustrations and personal grievance found in the interactions between Luther & Cajetan
- How politically-expedient Luther had made his theology
- That Cortez and Pizarro were conquering the Aztecs and Incans at the same time as Luther was being excommunicated
- The matter-of-factness of the English Reformation, especially the degree to which it depended on which ruler (and set of advisors) was currently reigning
- The near-agreements between Zwingli & Luther
- The plethora of spontaneous responses by Catholic individuals to Protestantism
- How well the Church adjusted and how salutary it was for her to be forced into these reforms.
- The splintering nature of Protestantism without authority

Catholic Saints & Church Contributions

- St. Francis de Sales
- St. Ignatius of Loyola
- St. Francis Xavier
- St Frances of Rome
- St. Vincent Ferrer

- St. John of Capistrano
- St. Rita of Cascia
- St. Thomas More
- St. Angela Merici
- St. Cajetan
- St. Bridget of Sweden

Morals, Virtues, & Catholic Principles
Civic Connections & Virtues

3rd Tier Questions

Other Considerations

- “Has anyone ever thought of...?”
- “If-stry”
- “What does this show us about human nature, God, society, the Church, etc.?”
- “This is connected to today by...”

Unit’s History Expressed & Captured Through...

- Poetry
- Novels
- Music
- Architecture
- Paintings
- Sculpture
- Political Cartoons
- Newspaper Headlines

End of Unit

- Enduring Legacy Today (symbols, holidays, etc.)
- To be Memorized (and so carried in the Heart)
 - Speeches
 - Poems
 - Songs
 - Excerpts from Primary Sources
 - Quotes
- Timeline
- Writing Assignments
- At Home Questions w/ Parents
- Unit Assessments
 - Map
 - Timeline
 - Write Narratives & Biographies
 - Argument Writing
 - Memorization of Quotes, Poems, etc.

- Facts
- Further Reading

FINAL WORKING DRAFT