



End-of-Chapter

Conclusion

The Italian Renaissance worldview grew out of all the changes that occurred in Italy after the Middle Ages. These are factors that influenced the Italian Renaissance worldview:

Geography

- The city-states on and near the Mediterranean Sea had access to eastern trade routes.
- Italy's location allowed contact with Islamic and other civilizations.
- Italy had little agricultural land. Its citizens pursued livelihoods other than agriculture.
- The mountains made a natural barrier to enemies, allowing the city-states to concentrate on trade, commerce, and the arts rather than defence.

Ideas and knowledge

- Ruins from the classical Greek and Roman civilizations surrounded the Italians, making them want to reclaim the lost knowledge of their ancestors.
- Crusaders and traders brought back many of the classical writings and new ideas and knowledge from the Islamic and Asian worlds.
- Renaissance scholars rediscovered the classical literature of the Greeks and Romans. This promoted new ways of thinking about the role of the individual.
- New ideas and knowledge from Greek, Roman, Hebrew, Muslim, and Asian sources valued the importance and worth of the individual. Individuals began to believe they were responsible for the directions their lives took.

Contact with other groups

- When the Crusades started, trading ships from Italian city-states carried crusaders and goods to the Holy Land. They returned with exotic luxury goods from Asia to sell to the rest of western Europe.
- The increased trade and contact with other societies created a wealthy merchant or middle class that supported Renaissance arts and architecture.
- Ideas and knowledge from Islamic and other civilizations became part of European culture and worldview.

Review and Synthesize

1. Compare the powerful city-states of Florence, Venice, and Genoa.
 - What did they have in common that made them powerful?
 - What was unique about each one?
 - How do you think the geography of each area contributed to its success as a city-state?
2. Imagine a new student has just joined your class. You have been asked to create a graphic organizer that will summarize the key ideas from this chapter for the new student to use as a study guide. Consider using technology to create this organizer. Pair up with a classmate and simulate a study session where you will share your organizers with each other.
3. Think about the Worldview Investigation that you did at the beginning of the chapter. Conduct another Think–Pair–Share discussion to review how contact with other groups shaped the Renaissance worldview. How was their experience similar to the Canadian experience in which contact among people has shaped our worldview?

SKILLS CENTRE

Turn to **How to Organize Information** in the Skills Centre to review how to use graphic organizers and charts to summarize the information about city-states.

Show What You Know

5. How did contact among people shape the worldview of Renaissance Italy?
6. How did the lives of people change during this period? Use a chart or graphic organizer to summarize your ideas.
7. How did the development of the Italian city-states contribute to changing worldviews during the Renaissance?

Closure

8. **Share:** Participate in a Think–Pair–Share activity to select one picture or image from this chapter that is the best example of the Renaissance worldview. The pictures may be in the text, on the walls of your classroom, or in collections of your classmates or your teacher.
9. **Discuss:** The Canadian worldview has been shaped by numerous experiences of contact among people.
10. **Reflect:** Throughout this chapter, you have been presented with opportunities to examine some of the values and beliefs that make up the Canadian worldview and many that were present in the Renaissance worldview. Now think about one of the values or beliefs that you have, as a person living in Canada, that is similar to the values or beliefs of people during the Renaissance.

Inquiry

4. Think about the reasons behind wealthy citizens of the Italian city-states donating money to create art and beautiful buildings for their cities. Plan a research project to find out about one of these examples. What were the motives of the donor? What does this philanthropy show about his or her values and beliefs? What does this show about our worldview?