

In this unit, students will learn about the Renaissance and how it was a cultural movement that began in Italy and swept through Europe.

What's the story?

Students will explore the **art** and **literature** of this time period through the works of people such as **Leonardo da Vinci**, **Michelangelo**, and **Shakespeare**.

What will my student learn?

Students will learn about the **rise of the middle class** that resulted from increased trade with other countries. They will be exposed to **works of art** and **pieces of writing** from renowned artists and authors. Students will use **maps** and a **portrait gallery** as a resource throughout the unit.

Students will also participate in a **writing project**. They will **research** a famous Renaissance artist and **compose a biography** of that figure.

Conversation starters

Ask your student questions about the unit to promote discussion and continued learning:

1. Describe for me what life was like in a town in the Middle Ages.
2. How did trade positively affect life in the Middle Ages?
Follow up: How did it negatively affect it?
3. What were some of the new techniques used by Renaissance artists?
Follow up: Why is perspective an important concept for painters?
4. You learned about the word *reluctantly*. What does it mean? (unwillingly or unenthusiastically) When have you been reluctant to do something?
Follow up: What part of speech is the word *reluctantly*? (adverb) What is an antonym (or a word that means the opposite) of *reluctantly*?
5. Who was your favorite artist or author that you learned about?
Follow up: What are they most famous for? Why are they your favorite?