



Welcome!

Grade 5, Unit 2 The Renaissance: Art and Culture

Dear Family Member,

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 **Raphael**, and learn about how they were inspired both by the works of the ancient Greeks and Romans, the Bible, and the teachings of the Church.

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** where they will write an extended constructed response that describes how the ideals of one Italian Renaissance artist impacted another outside of Italy.

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 *unchartered*. What does it mean? (unknown or not previously explored or experienced) What are some other examples of someone entering uncharted territory?
Follow up: What part of speech is the word *unchartered*? (adjective) What is an antonym (or a word that means the opposite) of *unchartered*?
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?