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Gr 6 SS Hist

Date: _____

Explorers from Europe find Southern Africa

Reasons for European exploration

The term 'Renaissance' means 'rebirth' and it is the period in European civilization immediately following the Middle Ages. Historians have never been able to decide when the exact period began. Some state its beginning in the 12th century, others say it was the 14th century. What we do know is that a Renaissance did indeed occur. It started in Italy after a heightened interest in classical learning and values. It was a historical era with distinctive themes in learning, politics, literature, art, religion, social life and music. The changes from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance were momentous. During the Renaissance, new continents were discovered as well as inventions such as paper, gunpowder and the magnetic compass. There were great breakthroughs in anatomy, medicine, astronomy and mathematics. The printing press was invented and books became available to people for the first time. It was also a time of world exploration and the beginning of modern science. Nicolaus Copernicus determined that the earth revolved around the sun. Many explorers sailed the seas in search of trade routes to the Far East. Christopher Columbus crossed the Atlantic to land in America. Vasco da Gama sailed around Africa and reached India. The Southern African Society was at the height of its power at the same time that the European Renaissance occurred. Europeans were interested in Africa, although they knew little about it. The significant intellectual movement of the Renaissance was 'humanism'. It was based on the belief that the literary, scientific, and philosophical works of ancient Greece and Rome gave the best guides for learning and living. Humanism was based on grammar, rhetoric, poetry, history, and moral philosophy studies of the standard ancient authors of Rome and Greece. Humanism became entrenched in society as a new form of education. Humanism brought intellectual unity to Europe.

Activity 1: The Renaissance

- 1) What is the meaning of the term "Renaissance"? (1)
- 2) In which country did the Renaissance begin? (1)
- 3) Name four important breakthroughs during the Renaissance? (4)
- 4) What was the name of the term that described the values and ideals of the Renaissance? (2)
- 5) Name two continents which were discovered during the Renaissance? (2)
- 6) Name two inventions during the Renaissance? (2)

Total: (12)

read pages 120-124 in textbook

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Reasons For European Exploration

• To find sea routes and trading partners.

The spice trade was the world's biggest industry as it led to the discovery of new continents. Spices were protected as they generated immense wealth for those who controlled them. The spice trade began in the Middle East and was run mostly by camel on overland routes. The Silk Road was an important route connecting Asia with the Mediterranean world, including North Africa and Europe. Trade on the Silk Road was a substantial factor in the growth of civilizations of China, India, Egypt, Persia, Arabia and Rome. In the first century BC, the Roman Empire set up a powerful trading centre in Alexandria, Egypt and controlled the spice trade that entered the Greco-Roman empire. Roman soldiers were paid in salt, a practice that resulted in the word "salary" and the phrase "worth his salt." Pepper, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger and cloves were popular spices. Pepper was used to preserve and flavour meat as refrigeration was not possible. Cloves and cinnamon were used as air freshener. People used nutmeg to improve the flavour of bad tasting food. When the Arabs began charging high taxes for Europeans to cross the overland trade routes, European countries began on a quest to find alternative sea-routes. They knew that whichever country found an alternative route they would be very rich and powerful as they would ultimately control the spice and silk trades.

• To expand knowledge and to control a larger empire.

The Renaissance was a cultural movement that profoundly affected European intellectual life. People were driven by a desire to acquire new knowledge which resulted in the rise of the individual who sought happiness, achievement and personal fulfillment. By the 16th century, this cultural movement was felt in literature, philosophy, art, music, politics, science, religion and other aspects of intellectual inquiry. The philosophy of humanism resulted in individual expression by some of the greatest European artists of all time including Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo. Scholars employed the humanist method of study and searched for realism and human emotion in art. The quest for knowledge, especially in mathematics and experimenting was heightened and a radical style changed in the substance of arts and letter writing. The quest for knowledge brought about the creation of new techniques in art, poetry and architecture. There was a rise in commerce and exploration and the Renaissance was the beginning of a modern day epoch.

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Case Study: Leonardo da Vinci

Leonardo da Vinci was born in 1452 near the small town of Vinci in Northern Italy. His father, SerPiero, was a 25 year old notary. His mother was a peasant girl by the name of Caterina. Leonardo's parents did not marry and he was raised by his grandparents and uncle. At 14, after his uncle died, Leonardo was taken to his father in Florence. His father decided it was time for him to learn a trade and showed his drawings to Andrea delVerrochio who hired him as an apprentice. Verrochio was a great sculptor of his time and the official sculptor of the powerful Medici family. His best work was finished in gold and silver. It was during the Renaissance that artists began to use perspective in their paintings and drawings. Artists began to draw things as they saw them in nature. Leonardo and his fellow artists used mathematics to plot the placement of objects in their paintings and drawings. They used other techniques to show perspective like shading and colours. Leonardo thought it was important for painters to understand how to use mathematics and colour to create a painting, instead of just copying from other artists. Leonardo lived in an exciting time during the Renaissance. People were rediscovering ideas about philosophy and art from these ancient times. They were also examining new ways of thinking and of expressing themselves. When Leonardo finished his apprenticeship in 1472, he had become the leading artist in Verrocchio's studio. Verrocchio eventually gave up painting altogether after recognizing the brilliance of Leonardo. Verrocchio put Leonardo to work on part of a painting that he was working on, 'Baptism of Christ'. He had Leonardo paint one of the angels in this work. When Verrocchio saw the angel that Leonardo painted, he was stunned. It was so beautiful and so much better than his own work that Verrocchio vowed he would never touch a paintbrush again. Leonardo turned his attention toward mathematics and experimentation. He wanted to observe, discover and invent. He studied anatomy and looked for structure when drawing the human figure, animals and plants. Leonardo looked for the mechanism which moved the creature. He invented a flying machine called the 'Orinthopter' and many other inventions which were written in Leonardo's manuscripts. Leonardo fled Milan in 1499. In 1502, he became a military engineer and eventually moved back to Florence where he and a young rival, Michelangelo Buonarroti, were appointed by the city to paint two pictures, neither of which were finished. During the period 1503-1506, Leonardo painted Monna (or Mona) Lisa, believed to be the wife of a well-known Florentine merchant known as Francesco del Giocondo, and thus it became known as "La Gioconda". Leonardo loved the portrait so much so that he always carried it with him. After his death it was given to the King of France. Leonardo kept numerous notebooks throughout his life, for example, the Codex Leicester. These notebooks had to be viewed in a mirror as the handwriting was written backwards. After his death in 1519, he left fewer than twenty paintings and 5000 pages of notes and drawings which remained unnoticed until the 18th century when they were discovered. His way of painting had eternal influence.

- To expand religion.

During the Renaissance, the printing press was invented. This allowed new ideas, as well as scriptures of the Bible to be easily printed and distributed. People were able to read the Bible for the first time. The Roman Catholic Church was very powerful and was the only church in Western Europe until other influences started to establish, such as the Holy Roman Empire, the Italian city-states, England and the unified nation states of France and Spain. The Roman Catholic Church began to decline, resulting in the Protestant Reformation and the creation of Protestant churches. People were keen to take the occasion offered by the Reformation to weaken the power of the Papacy. Martin Luther sparked this Reformation in 1517. Europeans saw it as their mission to spread the word of God and to bring pagans into Christianity.

Activity 2: Reasons For Exploration

List and Explain the Three Reasons for European Exploration?

Total: (6)

Activity 3: Leonardo da Vinci

- 1) Who was Leonardo da Vinci? (1)
- 2) When and where was he born? (2)
- 3) What is an apprentice? (2)
- 4) List three techniques which artists began using? (3)
- 5) Name Leonardo da Vinci's most famous painting? (1)
- 6) State two possible reasons why this painting is so famous? (2)
- 7) Why did Leonardo da Vinci write his notes backwards/ in codes? (1)

Total: (12)