

JC History – Key Definitions

Renaissance



Renaissance means rebirth and the period lasted from around 1400 to around 1700.

Merchants



Italian merchants bought silks and spices from Asia and sold them to the rest of Europe. This made them rich.

Patrons



A Patron is a person who pays an artist to produce a work of art.

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Rome

REVISE
WISE

Rome was ruled by the pope.

Milan

REVISE
WISE

Milan was ruled by a military family, the Sforza.

Venice

REVISE
WISE

In Venice the 500 richest families elected a council to run their city.

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Florence

REVISE
WISE

In 1400 Florence was the richest city in Italy. The inhabitants made their money from the wool trade and from banking.

Republic

REVISE
WISE

Florence was a republic. This meant the people who could vote elected the government.

Medici

REVISE
WISE

The Medicis were the wealthiest bankers in Florence.

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Platonic
Academy



This was an academy where scholars could study manuscripts.

Sfumato



An artistic technique where you add shading to a picture.

Frescos



A fresco is a picture painted directly onto a wall or a ceiling.

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Leonardo da
Vinci

REVISE
WISE

- He was born in 1452
- At 15 he was apprenticed
- Famous paintings include:
 - Virgin on the Rocks
 - Mona Lisa
 - The Last Supper.

Michelangelo's
David

REVISE
WISE

Michelangelo's David was carved in remembrance of the victory Florence had over France.

The Sistine
Chapel

REVISE
WISE

The work was commissioned by Pope Julius II. It took four years to paint and has over 300 figures.

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Gothic
architecture

REVISE
WISE

Features of Gothic architecture include: spires, pointed arches and flying buttresses.

Roman
architecture

REVISE
WISE

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Brunelleschi's
Dome

REVISE
WISE

This huge dome sits on top of the cathedral in Florence. It took sixteen years to build.

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Manuscript



A manuscript is a handwritten book.

Movable type



Johannes Gutenberg invented movable type. He carved small metal letters that could be used over and over again to make different words.

Gutenberg's bible



The bible was printed in 1456 and had 1,300 pages. Today only 47 copies of this bible remain and it is one of the most valuable books in the world.