

An Introduction to the Renaissance

1. What was the Renaissance?

- Your teacher will start by leading a class brainstorm about what you know already about the Renaissance. Your ideas will be written up on the board. Offer anything – names, places, dates!
- Once the class has run out of ideas, use the information to answer this question in full sentences:

What does our class know already about the Renaissance?

Your teacher will now elaborate. Use the information to answer this question:

What extra information was given to us by the teacher?

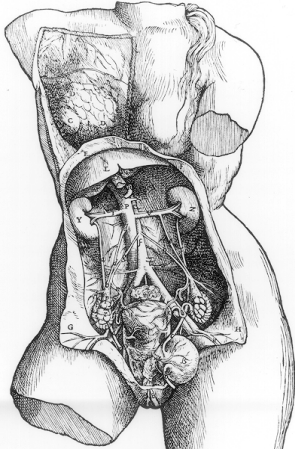
2. What sorts of things changed in the Renaissance?

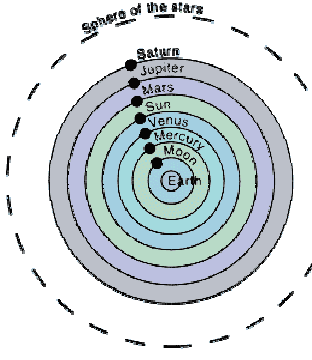
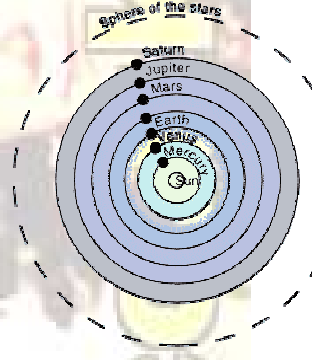
- The class should start by completing the first row of the table together.
- Next, each person in the class will be given a number between 2 and 5.
2 = Literature | 3 = Anatomy | 4 = Astronomy | 5 = Art
- Now complete the appropriate row in the table of sources you have been given by comparing the pictures.

3. What was the most important development?

- All the "number 2s" will be given a letter (a, b, c, etc) and so too will the "3s", the "4s" and the "5s". All the "a's" should sit at one table, all the "b's" at another table, and so on.
(a) Each person in the group should take it in turns to share their findings with the other members of the group. In this way, everyone in the group can complete the blank rows of their table.
(b) When everyone has their table completed, the group needs to prepare an answer to the **key question** at the end of the document.

Introduction to the Renaissance: Sources

	Before the Renaissance	During the Renaissance	Causes
1. Geography			Before the Renaissance, people believed that... During the Renaissance, people believed that... I think these changes happened because...
2. Literature			Before the Renaissance, people produced books by... During the Renaissance, people produced books by... I think these changes happened because...
3. Anatomy			Before the Renaissance, people believed that... During the Renaissance, people believed that... I think these changes happened because...

4. Astronomy	 A diagram of the geocentric model of the universe. At the center is a small circle labeled 'Earth'. Surrounding it are concentric circles representing the orbits of celestial bodies, labeled from innermost to outermost: 'Moon', 'Mercury', 'Venus', 'Sun', 'Mars', 'Jupiter', and 'Saturn'. The outermost dashed circle is labeled 'Sphere of the stars'.	 A diagram of the heliocentric model of the universe. At the center is a small circle labeled 'Sun'. Surrounding it are concentric circles representing the orbits of celestial bodies, labeled from innermost to outermost: 'Mercury', 'Earth', 'Venus', 'Mars', 'Jupiter', and 'Saturn'. The outermost dashed circle is labeled 'Sphere of the stars'.	Before the Renaissance, people believed that... During the Renaissance, people believed that... I think these changes happened because...
5. Art	 A medieval sculpture of the Virgin Mary holding the Christ Child. The figures are stiff and frontal, with Mary's hands clasped in prayer and Christ's hands resting on his knees. The style is characteristic of the Gothic period.	 A Renaissance sculpture of the Virgin Mary holding the Christ Child. The figures are more naturalistic and expressive, with Mary's hands resting on Christ's legs and Christ's hands resting on his knees. The style is characteristic of the High Renaissance.	Before the Renaissance, sculptures were... During the Renaissance, sculptures became... I think these changes may have happened because...

Key Question:

"Which do you think was the most important development and why?" [Tip: try to show how changes in one area helped to create or speed up changes in another; maybe even draw this up as a flow chart!]