THE RENAISSANCE was a time of great advances in science, literature, and the arts. After the fall of Constantinople, masses of Greek people fled the battle-damaged capital of the Eastern Empire and brought their treasures and learning with them to Italy, where they were warmly welcomed. Soon classical Greek learning spread throughout Western Europe, inspiring new ideas and creative efforts everywhere.

Then the most significant advance of all during these times, the invention of the printing press, allowed new and classical ideas to spread much faster and to more people than ever before.

Reading and Assignments

Based on your student’s age and ability, the reading in this unit may be read aloud to the student and journaling and notebook pages may be completed orally. Likewise, other assignments can be done with an appropriate combination of independent and guided study.

In this unit, students will:

- Complete two lessons in which they will learn about the Renaissance and printing in Europe.
- Define vocabulary words.
- Complete a biographical notebook page on the life of Johannes Gutenberg.
- Read the suggested supplemental readings from The World of Christopher Columbus and Sons.
- Visit www.ArtiosHCS.com for additional resources.

Lorenzo de Médici, by Andrea del Verrocchio
Lorenzo de Médici was an Italian statesman who was one of the most powerful and enthusiastic patrons of the Renaissance.

Lorenzo de Médici’s signature
Leading Ideas

God orders all things for the ultimate good of His people.
And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.
— Romans 8:28

The diligence to “keeping faith” is a revelation of an individual’s character.
Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace.
— Zechariah 8:16

Be wary so that you are not deceived by the lies of the world.
See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.
— Colossians 2:8

Vocabulary

Lesson 1:
Renaissance

Lesson 2:
none

Key People, Places, and Events

Invention of the printing press
Invention of gunpowder
Leonardo da Vinci
Michelangelo
Johannes Gutenberg
Laurens Janszoon Coster

Portrait of Leonardo, by Francesco Melzi
da Vinci was an Italian whose areas of interest included invention, painting, sculpting, architecture, science, music, mathematics, engineering, literature, anatomy, geology, astronomy, botany, writing, history, and cartography.

Michelangelo, by Miguel Angel
Michelangelo was an Italian sculptor, painter, architect, poet, and engineer of the High Renaissance.
WHEN THE Ottoman Turks invaded Eastern Europe, masses of Greeks fled west, bringing classical thought and culture with them. Their ideas and creativity inspired great changes in the Western world, sparking a cultural revolution that brought Europe out of the Dark Ages and into a new, exciting era called the Renaissance. When we study the events of these times, we can see God’s hand working to spread the gospel and prepare the way for the Reformation that was to follow.

Reading and Assignments

- Read the article: *The Renaissance*.
- Define the vocabulary word in the context of the reading and put the word and its definition in the vocabulary section of your notebook.
- After reading the article, summarize the story you read by either:
  - Retelling it out loud to your teacher or parent.
  - OR
  - Completing an appropriate notebook page.
  Either way, be sure to include the answers to the discussion questions and an overview of key people, places, dates, and events in your summary.
- Suggested Supplemental Reading: *The World of Christopher Columbus and Sons*, pages 41-68.
- Visit [www.ArtiosHCS.com](http://www.ArtiosHCS.com) for additional resources.

Vocabulary

| Renaissance |

Key People, Places, and Events

| Invention of the printing press | Michelangelo |
| Invention of gunpowder | Leonardo da Vinci |

Discussion Questions

1. How did printing change the world?

2. In what ways did the discovery of the New World affect people’s thinking?
The time in history between the Middle Ages and modern times is known as the Renaissance. Great cultural change began in Italy near the end of the fourteenth century. The Renaissance marked a time when learning revived and began to spread throughout Europe.

During the Renaissance people began to take a new look at morality and learning. They studied the classical writings, and when they looked at their own ways they found they didn’t like them. Each man now wanted to think his own thoughts and live his own life. The Renaissance touched and changed all of life.

While the European nations had been growing stronger, life had centered on war, and learning was neglected. Greek was forgotten. Plato was not known. Homer and Aristotle were read only in Latin, while the original books lay unopened in libraries because nobody could read them. There were no language books. Classical learning remained only in Constantinople, on the eastern edge of civilization.

**Italy and the Humanists**

When the Ottoman Turks entered Greece, masses of Greeks left and journeyed to Italy, where their culture and literature were welcomed. Italy was soon on the path to reviving classical learning and thought.

This was a form of revolt against the Dark Ages, when very little ever changed and creative thought was discouraged.

Classical Greek and Latin writings were studied, and Italians such as Boccaccio and Petrarch developed new writings based on their ideas. These writings became known as the Humanities, and Petrarch is known as the first Humanist.

Italy loved Greek learning and art. So, when the Greek scholars brought in their books and pictures, they also brought their love of art and learning. Because Italy was ready for this, classical forms of art and literature were revived.

When armies attacked Italy, they could not bring themselves to destroy the country because of its wealth of art and culture. When the soldiers returned to their own lands, they brought this love of learning and creativity to others.

**High Renaissance Art**

Italy spread a new passion for art. Michelangelo, Raphael, and Leonardo da Vinci are some of her best known artists.
from this time. The King of France asked them to come to his country, where they designed great castles and churches. Leonardo taught other artists, who became great builders. This architecture soon spread through Europe. Art and learning filled life, and gloomy castles disappeared, their place taken over by beautiful manor homes.

Gunpowder changed things, but printing changed them even more by increasing learning. While it is uncertain whether it was Johannes Gutenberg or Laurens Janszoon Coster of Holland who actually invented the very first European printing press, it is known that presses came into use about the middle of the fifteenth century and their use spread quickly. Printing presses were in use in each country by the end of the century.

Printing changed the world because it spread learning. And as man discovered inexpensive ways to make paper, learning grew even more. Soon many people were able to own books.

**The New World**

The old world was changing fast, and men soon found a new world. Christopher Columbus led the way across the Atlantic. Vasco da Gama soon followed, heading around the Cape of Good Hope. Then Ferdinand Magellan sailed around the world. Many other sailors soon followed. They found out Columbus had not gone to India, but instead had discovered a new land entirely unknown to them.

All of these trips revealed many things. It was discovered that the world was indeed round and that people lived on the other side. It was also discovered that the world was much larger than previously thought. However, the Church had taught that the world was flat, so to believe otherwise was sin. Because the Apostles were commanded to go forth to preach the Gospel to the whole world and had never gone to the other side of the world, it was thought that there could be no such place.

But brave sailors proved that the world was round and that people lived on the
other side. This shocked men’s ideas about the world, as well as their faith. If the Church was wrong in one area, maybe it was wrong in others. The discovery of the New World made men want to think even more for themselves. The finding of the New World caused people to question what they had been taught.

The center of European trade was no longer the Mediterranean. Italians had controlled European trade from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Their leaders included families such as the Lombards and the Médicis. Cities like Venice had grown great on this trade.

But the discovery of America changed all of that. The focus of trade shifted from Italy to other countries on Europe’s Atlantic coast. Many Italian ports were abandoned, while others became unimportant. Countries which had a good location and men who loved adventure gained the most from the New World. Spain, Portugal, England, France, and the Netherlands shared good locations from which to trade.

All started out on an equal footing in the race. But over time, England outdid all the others.

The world-famous Mona Lisa, by Leonardo da Vinci

The Pietà by Michelangelo, in Saint-Peter’s Basilica, Vatican City

Saint Peter’s Basilica, Rome, the most renowned work of Renaissance architecture
WITHOUT DOUBT the most important development during the Renaissance was the invention of the printing press. In Germany, Johannes Gutenberg persevered in his dream to make books more available until he found a way to make it happen. In Holland, Laurens Janszoon Coster did the same, and soon printed books and pamphlets were spreading both new and classical thought throughout Europe.
Reading and Assignments

- Read the article: *Gutenberg*.
- After reading the article, summarize the story you read by completing a biographical notebook page on the life of *Gutenberg*. Be sure you include the answers to the discussion questions.
- Watch *The Book That Changed The World* by visiting:
- Be sure to visit [www.ArtiosHCS.com](http://www.ArtiosHCS.com) for additional resources.

Key People, Places, and Events

Johannes Gutenberg
Laurens Janszoon Coster

Discussion Questions

1. What were handwritten books called during the Renaissance?
2. Describe in detail Gutenberg’s lifelong passion to develop the printing press.
3. Name two other men who are sometimes thought to have invented the printing press.
While Joan of Arc was rescuing France from England, a man named Johannes Gutenberg was busy in Germany.

Gutenberg was born in Mainz, and Germans attest that he invented book printing. Although printing had been done in China for centuries, a good method was not found for it in Europe until this time. There are statues of Gutenberg in Dresden and Mainz celebrating his invention.

His father came from an upper-class family. Johannes learned to read, but the books he learned to read from had all been written by hand. These books are called “manuscripts” (manuscript means “written by hand”).

A new way of making books came into use while Gutenberg was growing up. It was better than copying by hand. It was called block-printing. The printer would cut a block of wood the size of a page. He would cut out every word of a page on the face of his block. He had to do this carefully. The printer had to cut away the wood from the sides of every letter. This left the letters raised, like the symbols in books for the blind.

Once the block was ready to use, the letters were inked. The paper was laid upon them and pressed down.

The new printer could make copies much faster. Making of the blocks took a long time, and each block could only print one page at a time.

Gutenberg liked reading manuscripts, and he liked the block books his parents and their wealthy friends had, but he felt sorry for people who could not afford books. So he decided to find an easy and quick way of printing.

He looked for a workshop. He lived in Strasbourg, and there was a ruined old building in town, where monks had once lived. It had one room that needed a little repairing before it could be used, so Gutenberg got the right to repair that room so he could use it as his workshop.

He began his work in secret. He didn’t want his neighbors to know what he was doing. But they were curious about what he did from early morning to after dark. Some thought he was a wizard. They thought he
met with the devil and that the devil was helping him do strange things.

Gutenberg did not care about what people thought. He tried one experiment after another. He was often discouraged when they did not succeed.

**Gutenberg at Work**

After a while he had no money left, so he went back to Mainz. There he met a rich goldsmith named Fust.

Gutenberg told Fust about his workshop in Strasbourg. He shared how hard he had worked and how he wanted to make books cheaply, but that he had no more money for his experiments.

Fust became interested. He gave Gutenberg the money he needed. But when the experiments did not at first succeed, Fust lost patience. He argued with Gutenberg and claimed that Gutenberg was doing nothing. He believed that Gutenberg was only spending money, so Fust took him to court. The judge decided in favor of Fust, and Gutenberg lost everything. He even lost the tools he worked with.

However, Gutenberg did not lose courage, and he did not lose all his friends. One of them bought Gutenberg new tools and rented a workshop for him. Gutenberg’s hopes were finally fulfilled.

It is believed that he first made *types* from hard wood. Each type was a little block with a single letter at one end. These types were better than block letters. Block letters were fixed and could not be removed from the block, but the new types were moveable. A whole page could get set up for print. Then the types could be taken apart and set up again so that they could print any number of pages.

Type made of wood did not always print letters clearly, so Gutenberg tried metal types. Then he printed a Latin Bible. It was in two volumes. Each had three hundred pages, and each page had forty-two lines. The letters were sharp and clear. They had been printed from moveable types of metal.

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**Laurens Janszoon Coster**

The Dutch claim that a Dutchman named Laurens Janszoon Coster was the first to print with moveable type. They say Coster was walking in a beech tree forest. He cut bark from a tree and shaped it into letters with his knife.

After this Coster made moveable types. Then he began printing and selling books in Holland.

Written news soon spread all over Europe. Books were printed in Germany by Gutenberg and in Holland by Coster. Before Gutenberg died, other printing-presses were making books all over the continent.
About twenty years after Gutenberg died, Aldus Manutius set up a famous printing house in Venice. Venice was the richest European city at the time. Aldus was printing books two years before Columbus sailed the first time, and Aldus’ family kept up the press for about hundred years after his death. Their publishing company was called the Aldine Press. Aldine Press books were known for their beauty, and they are still admired and valued today.

Movable type sorted in a letter case and loaded in a composing stick on top
(By Willi Heidelbach, CC BY 2.5, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=154912)
Note: the plate says - “The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog and feels as if he were in the seventh heaven of typography together with Hermann Zapf, the most famous artist of the”. Can you read it?