

## Introduction to the Northern Renaissance: A Trip Across Europe

Directions: Read all of the information on this card and view the images to complete your notes chart and the review questions on the student handout.



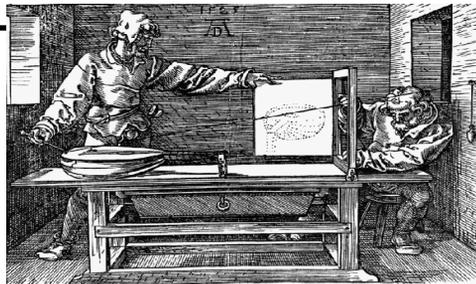
### Gutenberg's Shop

Welcome to the shop of Johannes Gutenberg. Here is where the printing press has been introduced and has already been used to publish many great works. More importantly, through the capabilities of this press, work on various topics has spread throughout Europe much quicker than it ever could before. The Gutenberg Bible, printed in German, has allowed many

Christians to read the Bible who were unable to read it in the Latin vernacular. In addition to the printing of books, Gutenberg's press has been responsible for spreading the word about political and religious movements, including the production of Martin Luther's pamphlets, leading to the Reformation across Germany and beyond. Gutenberg's invention and efforts will be significant for generations to come, bringing communication into the modern world.

### Durer's Studio

Welcome to the workplace of Albrecht Durer here in Nuremberg, Germany. Durer is considered one of the greatest artists and inspirations of the Northern Renaissance due to his many contributions and innovations in the art world. From his vibrant paintings to his detailed woodcuts, Durer used perspective, correct proportions, and classical motifs to bring art to the forefront in the North. Some of the artwork you will see displayed include his woodcuts and work with perspective, his famous piece Knight, Death and the Devil, and other watercolors that show his creativeness, his religious focus, and his undeniable skill and craft. Through the work of Albrecht Durer, many others in Northern Europe became inspired and others learned to appreciate art and its value in the modern world. Even more amazing is the knowledge that most of his greatest works were done while he was only in his twenties, making others realize the potential in even the young of Renaissance society.



### Bucklersbury

Welcome to the little area of Bucklersbury in London, England. Here is the home of Sir Thomas More, the author of the book, *Utopia*. More, and his fellow humanists were very concerned about society and the corruption they saw building in the modern world. They wrote, offering suggestions about the ways humans could live better and work according to the laws of God and society to make the world a better place. More's book, *Utopia*, suggested the creation of a perfect society where the rules were all established and all inhabitants agreed to the social code of behavior and cooperation. Also working at More's home, you could find the Christian Humanist, Desiderius Erasmus working in his humorous way to encourage others to have a more critical view of society and its pitfalls. Erasmus wrote *The Praise of Folly*, in which he exposed the wealth and waste of the popes in the Catholic Church. Through the works of More and Erasmus, many other writers joined in the Renaissance movement to begin creating great literary works that would be known around the world. This attention to literature would also revolutionize the academic world and would refocus learning and bring a greater appreciation to literary contributions of all genres.





## Brugles in the Flemish Region

Here at the Brugles Canal, you can see the beauty of the European cities and countryside that inspired many great artists in the Northern Renaissance period. In the Flemish region, many young artists learned, trained, and worked under two brothers, Jan and Hubert van Eyck.. Their many scenes depicted from the Bible were detailed and realistic, bringing a fresh awareness to the contributions of Biblical art. Their art technique of painting with oils

on canvas allowed for texture and depth in the artwork, and this new style spread to Italy, impacting the great artists of the movement there.

Another significant Northern artist was Pieter Brueghel. Brueghel traveled to Italy and back, often disguised as a peasant to learn about the people and scenes he wished to depict in his art. His many paintings show the life of the peasant and country class in the early ages of the Renaissance period. From wedding celebrations and festivals to the games children played, he gave Europeans a glimpse of the life of the peasants of their world.

## London

Come visit the growing and ever changing city of London. Here in London, the Renaissance is alive with growth and development from every corner. First and foremost, the kings of England, Henry VII invited the Italian scholars to come and teach the English about the ways of the Renaissance movement in Italy. This opened many doors for creativity and expression, and once Queen Elizabeth took the throne in 1558, she brought with her an appreciation of the many new Renaissance ideas from the arts to literature to the rising theatre. Her support and patronage of the growth of society made it take off in the bustling city, and London grew to be a cultural center of the world. With the support of the Queen, a young William Shakespeare not only wrote many plays and other pieces, but he was able to build the great Globe Theatre in London for all to be able to see and experience his great dramas. Shakespeare wrote with the issues and topics of society in mind, using history and relevance to individual lives as inspiration. His well told stories of jealousy, deception, love, ambition, and even despair captivated audiences and drew large crowds from all classes, making his the greatest playwright of all time.



## Paris & Bordeaux in France

The French have always prided themselves for great elegance and beauty, and their works in the time of the Northern Renaissance show those traits. First, French architects began works on the many chateaus that line the countryside and some city landscapes. The combination of gothic style with classical shapes brought the French their own detailed contribution to the setting. In addition to the architecture, the French too had authors and poets who inspired all of Europe with their pieces. Michel de Montaigne wrote the

first known personal essays, introducing a new literary genre in which emotion and prose could come together to express the personal views of the writer. Francois Rabelais wrote in a completely different style, using humor and parodies to attack the wrongs he saw in everyday life. His broad range of writing was often open and frank, never leaving the reader unaware of his views on society and how individuals should make every effort to enjoy every minute of life given to them in their lives.



## *The Northern Renaissance*

*Directions: Read the information and review the images on the Reading Handout. Complete your notes with who, what, when, where and why for each location and answer the wrap-up questions on this response sheet.*

*Notes on Gutenberg's Shop*

*What happened at this location?*

*How did it impact the growth of the Renaissance?*

*Notes on Durer's Studio*

*What happened at this location?*

*How did it impact the growth of the Renaissance?*

*Notes on Bucklersbury*

*What happened at this location?*

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*Notes on Bruges*

*What happened at this location?*

*How did it impact the growth of the Renaissance?*

*Notes on London*

*What happened at this location?*

*How did it impact the growth of the Renaissance?*

*Notes on Paris & Bordeaux in France*

*What happened at this location?*

*How did it impact the growth of the Renaissance?*



*What significance did Northern Europe play in the Renaissance? What cultural changes did they contribute?*

*How did the people of Northern Europe contribute to its advancement and success in the Renaissance period? What specific individuals played a key role?*

*What are the topics and styles of the art and literature created in Northern Europe during the early Renaissance period? List the artists and authors, pieces, styles, themes, and techniques.*