The Northern Renaissance
Northern Renaissance

- Spread from Italy in late 1400s
- War, trade, travel & printing press helped promote this cultural diffusion
- People in N. Europe adopt ideas to suit their own tastes, values & needs
- 1517—Francis I brought da Vinci to his court in France
- Monarchs eagerly support scholars & artists
- Merchants spent $ on education, fine houses & material goods
- Some travel to Italy to study under the masters
- Newly educated middle class emerges
Printing Press

- Invented by Johannes Gutenberg in Germany around 1455
- Used moveable type to print books
- First printed were Bibles
- Other popular printed items: almanacs, calendars & how to books
- 1460s—printing shops spread throughout Germany
- Led to ↑ in literacy, growth of libraries & univ.
- Powerful tool for religious & political propaganda
Dates indicate the first occurrence of printing.

The Spread of Printing
Gutenberg printing press
Mainz, Germany
Renaissance Print Shop
Gutenberg Printing Press: A Demonstration from The Gutenberg Museum Mainz, Germany

- [YouTube clip – 5:13](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOAVA9gAmY)
French Renaissance

- Architects blend medieval Gothic towers & windows w/ classical Italian arches to create châteaux – castles or countryside estates
- Writers borrowed forms from Italy, using humanist themes like love, growing up & immortality
- Michel de Montaigne created the literary form, personal essay – short prose composition written to express writer’s view on a subject
- Rabelais, a physician-monk, rejected the Middle Ages’ focus on the afterlife, believing people should enjoy life to the fullest
French Châteaux
Northern Europe

- Italian Renaissance accepted by wealthy towns of Germany, Belgium & Netherlands
- Univ. & scholars promoted humanist learning & printers prod. lots of books
- Latin was lang. of learning
- Writers increased the use of German & Dutch lang.
Dutch Renaissance Architecture
Photos by Mr. Lenihan
The Medici opened a branch of their bank in Bruges, Belgium in 1446. The bank was liquidated with major losses in 1478.
Christian Humanism

- More religious tone than humanism
- Interest in religious reforms, morality & ethics
- Followers believed humanist learning & studying the Bible were best for promoting their goals
- Blended humanism & religion
Desiderius Erasmus (1466-1536)

- Christian Humanist leader
- Dutch priest & teacher
- Believed he could resolve church abuses & reform the Catholic Church
- Defended Luther but never broke from the church
- Stressed education & traveled around W. Europe
- Believed the church got too rich & Christianity should be a guiding philosophy for daily life
- People need to understand the Scriptures
- Most famous work was *In Praise of Folly*
- *In Praise of Folly* blends classical ideas of humanity & virtue w/ Christian ideals of love & piety; used satire to make people take a critical view of society
Northern Renaissance Art

• Relied more on medieval than classical styles
• Flemish painters led by the van Eyck’s painted sharp, realistic & detailed scenes from the Bible
• New technique of painting in oils spreads
• Painted Biblical scenes, landscapes & scenes from daily life
• Favored realism over Italian Renaissance idealism
• Rarely painted people nude
Mystic Lamb
Hubert & Jan van Eyck, 1432
The Arnolfini Marriage
Jan van Eyck, 1434
Madonna & Chancellor Rolin
(Chancellor to Phillip III, Duke of Burgundy)
Jan van Eyck, 1435
The Moneylender and his wife
Quentin Matsys, 1514
Self-Portrait
Albrecht Dürer, 1500
The Peasants Dance
Pieter Bruegel the Elder, 1567
English Renaissance

- Tudors win the War of the Roses & become new dynasty to rule – Henry VII crowned king in 1485
- Henry invited scholars to England where they taught humanist ideas & encouraged study of classical texts
- Thomas More, friend of Erasmus and advisor to Henry VIII, wrote *Utopia*
- *Utopia* was an imaginary, perfect society based on reason & toleration (*utopia* to him meant “a good place which is no place”) – word *utopia* means nowhere
- Shakespeare was a great playwright & his ideas came from medieval legends, classical mythology & history
“If he swagger, let him not come here: no, by my faith; I must live among my neighbours; I’ll no swaggerers: I am in good name and fame with the very best: shut the door; there comes no swaggerers here: I have not lived all this while, to have swaggering now: shut the door, I pray you.”
Comparing Italian & Northern Renaissances (6 min. video)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGxt15ghK3U