

People of the Renaissance

The following is a list of important occupations that people held during the Renaissance. Carefully read the job descriptions and decide which career path you would like to take. This assignment is worth 100 points (a test grade) so choose carefully. Your final product will be graded on creativity, neatness and accuracy.

1. Explorer: It is the 1500s. You have just returned to Spain from a 3-year voyage around the world.
**Write a story (at least 250 words) about your journey. Include such things as:
 - a. The number of ships and sailors that began the voyage
 - b. Dates involved
 - c. Problems faced by the crew
 - d. A happy/sad event that occurred during the trip
 - e. Names of 10 places (countries, islands, etc.) seen or visited on the trip
 - f. Kinds of products brought back to Europe from the Far East
 - g. The number of ships and sailors returning safely to Spain**Additionally, you must create a map of your journey, correctly outlining your travels y using arrows from one location to another. Your map must be hand-drawn, but may be traced from another.
**Your trip MUST make geographical sense (for instance, no sailor would sail from Spain to South Africa, to Iceland, to India) and products from localities MUST be researched (e.g., you didn't bring home bananas from Canada). Please make sure names of islands, etc., correspond correctly with dates in history (in other words, the United States wasn't named the United States in the 1500s).
2. Artist: During the Middle Ages artists painted pictures having to do with the Bible and religion, but Renaissance painters worked on landscapes, portraits, and scenes from everyday life. Chose one of the following art projects (a, b, or c) and prepare a detailed sketch in the style of a Renaissance artist. DO NOT choose this project if you do not have a talent for drawing. I don't expect you to be a Michelangelo, but your assignment will be graded on its presentation.
 - a. Landscape - draw any town or country scene which shows an aspect of life during the Renaissance. You may want to look in your textbook or in an encyclopedia under "Renaissance" for pictures that might give an idea of what to draw.
 - b. Everyday scene - prepare a sketch showing people of the Renaissance involved in an activity typical of life in the 1300s, 1400s, or 1500s. Use your textbook or an encyclopedia as a source for ideas.
 - c. Portrait - choose a famous person of the Renaissance, find their picture in your textbook or an encyclopedia, and do a drawing of that person.
3. Poet: Write a poem about the Renaissance. It might be on exploration, education, science, trade, town life, farming, famous people, or anything else typical of the period. Your poem should have *at least* 24 lines, and lines that repeat (say the same thing) do not count. The first line of the poem should rhyme with the second line, the third line with the fourth line, the fifth with the sixth, and so on.

4. **Architect:** Architecture before the Renaissance centered on the design of churches, but during the 1300s, 1400s, and 1500s attention was also given to the design of palaces, public buildings, and homes. As an architect, it is your job to draw a building that workers will eventually construct. Make a detailed drawing of either a church, palace, public building, or home. *Also include a sketch of the building's floor plan.*
5. **Scientist:** You are a scientist specializing in "anatomy" - the dissecting (taking apart for study) of plants and animals. In particular, you are interested in human anatomy. For some time now you have been cutting open dead bodies to study bones, muscles, joints, and internal organs. Write a report (250 or more words) describing your most recent experiments and findings. You may want to make some sketches of bones, muscles, joints, or internal organs. (Internal organs include the heart, lungs, brain, etc.) Your report should contain information on the location and function of various parts of the body. REMEMBER that Renaissance scientists did not have the information we have today. You must write in a manner consistent with the time period (do not provide information about bacteria, for instance, as they would not have had this knowledge yet).
6. **Playwright:** Plays, especially those by England's William Shakespeare, were enjoyed by the people of Western Europe. Choose one of the following topics (a, b, or c) and write a short, one act play that has 4 to 6 characters. People you might put in your play are suggested below. Give names to your characters and make up a title for your drama. You may write a comedy or a tragedy.
 - a. Columbus Discovers a New World. Scene: Columbus' three ships have been at sea for many weeks and are now approaching San Salvador island off the coast of Florida. San Salvador is the first land area that will be discovered by the crew sent by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain to find a route to the Indies. The time is October, 1492. Some suggested characters: Columbus, the first mate, a lookout hoping to sight land, other crew members.
 - b. A Scientist Argues with the Church. Scene: The Roman Catholic Church has brought up a scientist on charges of desecrating a human body. He says he was advancing science and knowledge of the human body by dissecting a cadaver. Stage a trial of this man using both sides of the scientific/religious argument. Some suggested characters: scientist, a priest, a bishop (acting as judge), a medical student.
 - c. Businessmen Discuss the Need for Banking Reforms. Scene: The place is Venice, the business center of the Renaissance. Several businessmen from different trades discuss the changes being made in the banking industry. In their talks, they mention the Church's regulations, international trade, loans, charging interest, etc. They also make some predictions of future banking/trade practices. Some suggested characters: 3 tradesmen, 2 bankers, 1 customer.
7. **Renaissance Chef:** You are the chef for one of the leading citizens of Italy. He entertains the very wealthiest of European society, including kings and queens and members of the Medici family. Prepare a 7-course meal fit for a king using recipes from the Late Medieval/Renaissance period. Possible courses include vegetables, main entrée, dessert, drinks. Then create a recipe book AND menu, listing the ingredients and preparation needed for all food and providing pictures (from Internet or magazines) of what your final presentation would look like. Extra credit will be gained if you make one of the food items and share it with the class!