



Girl Scouts of Central Indiana

Renaissance Times IPA

Renaissance, French for rebirth, describes the intellectual and economic changes that occurred in Europe from the fourteenth through the sixteenth centuries.

During the Renaissance era Europe emerged from the economic stagnation of the Middle Ages and experienced a time of financial growth. Also, and most importantly, the Renaissance era was an age when artistic, social, scientific, and political thought turned in new directions and took off.

To complete this interest project, you must complete two skill builder activities, one technology activity, one service project activity, one career exploration activity and complete two additional activities from any category.

Skill builders

1. Explore the arts of the Renaissance period. Who are your favorite Renaissance artists? Go to www.artcyclopedia.com web page. Browse by movement. You will be using this site to answer the following:
 - The Renaissance era is divided into three parts. For each, give the approximate time it began.
 - During the early Renaissance, around the 15th century, art works often concentrated on what new subjects?
 - How were the works of Northern Renaissance artists different from other European Renaissance artists?
 - Name three great artists who came from the high Renaissance period.
2. Select two artists from the Renaissance period and compare their styles. What made them so famous?

3. Explore the literature of the Renaissance period. Attend a Shakespeare play, either at a theater or a Renaissance faire or watch a Shakespeare movie. Compare the dialog spoken with the way you speak today.
4. Find out how girls and women lived during Renaissance times. How were they treated? What kind of work did they do? What kind of education did they have? What was it like to a peasant, middle class, or member of a noble family?
5. Many inventions were made during the Renaissance period. Name two and explain their importance in the development of the times.
6. Find out about the types of foods eaten during Renaissance times. How were they grown, stored and prepared? What kinds of foods did peasants, middle class and members of nobility eat?
7. Clothing was given meaning in style and color. Research the clothing worn by peasants, middle class, and members of noble families. What did adults and children wear? What did the different colors worn mean?

Technology

1. Research a famous mathematician, astronomer or scientist that lived during the Renaissance times. What was his discovery and theories? How did the people who lived during Renaissance times treat them?
2. The connection between the Renaissance era and math, go to the Web site below to answer the following questions.
www.idbsu.edu/courses/hy309/projects/math.html
 - a. Name one social factor that almost stopped the development of mathematics between the fourteenth and fifteenth century.
 - b. Why was the fall of Constantinople to the Turks important to the re-birth of mathematics?

- c. Name, and explain, three practical uses of arithmetic that emerged during this era.
3. Learn about what fabrics were available during Renaissance times. How was the material dyed? How were the fabrics constructed?
4. Learn what heraldry is and its history. Learn what symbols on family crests represent and what the colors stood for.

Service projects

1. Volunteer to help out at a Renaissance faire. See attached list of faires in Indiana. Assist with setting up or cleaning up. Become a character during the faire, work in the information booth, or in the children's area. Attend a committee meeting and see where you can help.
2. Set up a Renaissance times information display or class in school or in your scouting organization to educate children. Use books, clothing, crafts, or maps. Show a movie or read a story about Renaissance times.
3. Volunteer to set up a booth at a Renaissance faire to demonstrate a craft or cooking of Renaissance times. Don't forget to dress in costume.
4. Hold a fashion show using Renaissance clothing. Include costumes from the different classes of nobility, middle class and peasants.
5. Make a video of the Renaissance times. Donate the tape to your school or local library.

Career exploration

1. Find out what careers people of the Renaissance times held. How were they different for men and women? How were they different for the peasants, middle class, and nobility?

2. What careers are there today that require the knowledge of Renaissance times? What type of education is required to hold careers such as a history teacher, museum curator, or actor in the theater?

3. Interview someone who is part of a Renaissance organization and find out what training they had. Ask what they do and what they like or dislike about what they do.

Resources for Renaissance Times Interest Project

Web sites

www.rscds-twincities.org/costumes.html

www.rameset.com/heraldry.htm

www.historyforkids.org/learn/medieval/index.htm

www.learner.org/exhibits/renaissance/middleages.html

www.realarmorofgod.com/renaissance-era.html

www.bellaonline.com/Site/renaissance

www.renfaire.com

www.fishersrenfaire.com

Faires and events in the state of Indiana

Metea Renaissance Faire, 8401 Union Chapel Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46845

Five miles east of I-69 on State Route 1 North of Fort Wayne, IN.

Theme: A village festival in late Medieval and early Renaissance time, 1350-1550. Food and beverages may be brought in; no alcohol. No same day re-admission.

The Fishers Renfaire, 13400 Allisonville Rd., Fishers, IN 46038

Conner Prairie is located in Fishers, Indiana, just six miles north of Indianapolis on Allisonville Road (exit 5 from Interstate 69). parking is on site and parking is free.

Theme: 16th Century England

Books

Canterbury Tales, Geoffrey Chaucer

The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood

Cathedral or Castle, David Macaulay

Movies

Robin Hood- Men in Tights

Romeo and Juliette – Shakespeare

Much Ado About Nothing – Shakespeare

A Midsummer Night's Dream – Shakespeare

As You Like It – Shakespeare

Hamlet – Shakespeare

Clubs

Check local high schools and colleges to get volunteer speakers from Shakespearean club.