The Renaissance, Reformation, Scientific Revolution and Absolutism
1450-1750

How did the Renaissance shape European art, thought, science, religion and government?
Setting the Scene...

- What time period did the world experience before the emergence of the Renaissance?
  - Middle Ages – what characterized the middle ages?
  - More specifically, what characterized Europe?

- Geography – what did the world look like?
What differences do you notice between this map and how Europeans see it?

- http://www.euratlas.net/history/europe/1400/index.html
What does “Renaissance” mean?

- “Rebirth” – revival of learning from the classical civilizations of Greece and Rome
- Time of creativity and great political, social, economic and cultural change
- New ways of thinking and new technology allowed people to comprehend and describe their world more accurately
- Shift from agricultural to urban society
  - Trade became more important
Major Themes of the Renaissance

• **Humanism** - reading
  – Write a sentence or two describing humanism.
  – Write a sentence or two explaining why the Renaissance began in Italy.
  – What is a “Renaissance Man?”

• Importance of classical learning

• Emphasis on the individual
  – Leads to advancements in arts, exploration, medicine and science

• Questioning of traditional religious ideas
Why did the Renaissance begin in Italy?

– Location on the Mediterranean kept Italy connected during the Middle Ages
– Ancient Rome
– Center of Catholicism
– Wealthy families became patrons of the arts
• **Florence** – represented the Renaissance more than any other Italian city-state
Medici Family

- Were merchants during the Middle Ages
- Began banking in the 1200s
- Founded the Medici Bank in 1397
- Financially supported the arts in Florence as patrons
  - Michelangelo worked on and off for the family
- Helped scholars locate ancient and medieval documents
- Controlled the politics of Florence
- Model family for what the Renaissance was all about*