

How did the Arts and Literature of the Renaissance reflect the changes in values of society?

I. How were the world views of Middle Ages different from the Renaissance?

Middle Ages

- Dark ages
- Learning was limited to the Church

Renaissance

- Renewed interest in classical learning
- Humanism – valued man's achievements and abilities.
- Christians but questioned many traditional beliefs and ideas
- Powerful and wealthy merchant class
- Urban, town and city life

II. Renaissance – renewed interest in learning

- Meaning rebirth, the people of this time were coming out of the ‘dark ages’
- Renewed interest in learning, in classic studies, development of new form of art, writers
- Questioned traditional knowledge

Was Northern Italy an ideal place
for the start of the Renaissance?



- Why did the Renaissance begin in Northern Italy?
- What conditions allowed for learning and arts to flourish here?

III. The Renaissance began in Northern Italy

Location

- many scholars from the East came to Italian city states after the fall of the Byzantine Empire
- increased trade helped create a large wealthy merchant class
- home of classical Roman culture

Government/political

- * Most Italian city states were ruled by wealthy merchant families. Milan- Sforza, Florence by the Medici

- * The merchant class were not nobles but they had the intelligence and wealth surpassing the Nobles, they firmly believed that a person's achievements are more important than the status of birth

Social- the merchant class in the Italian city states enjoyed a luxurious lifestyle and began to compete with the church in becoming patrons of arts

IV. Arts

- The wealthy families of Italian cities became Patrons of the arts
- Arts began to look more realistic, developed perspective style, had much of classic and religious themes
- Expressed human achievements and expressions
- Paintings were often out doors
- Very religion/ Christian theme, but the ideas about man's place in the world and their views about God has changed



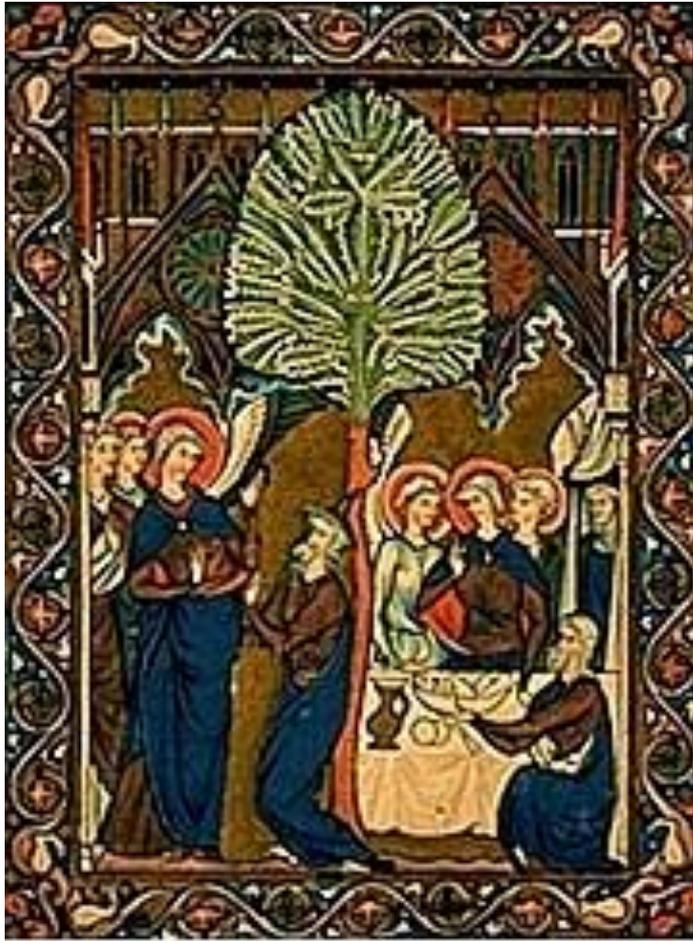
Paolo Ucello, The Hunt in the Woods, 15th century, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

Giotto c. 1320



King John





"Stained glass" manuscript.





III. Literature

- Early works
 - Dante Divine Comedy
 - Petrarch

 - Machiavelli The Prince
 - Sir Thomas Moore Utopia
 - Cervantes Don Quixote