

# Vocabulary Activity

## The Renaissance in Europe

### Content Vocabulary

**Directions:** Answer each of the following questions. Include in your answers the vocabulary words in parentheses.

1. What did a mercenary do during the Renaissance? Why does the term *mercenary* carry such negative associations, or connotations? (**mercenary**)

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2. Italian states like Venice and Florence were officially republics. In what sense were they republics in name only? (**republic**)

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3. How was the burgher of the Renaissance similar to what today we would call the "middle class," and how were he or she different? (**burgher**)

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4. What were some reasons Renaissance humanist writers gave for writing in the vernacular? (**vernacular**)

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5. How did the fact that Italian artists often painted frescoes on large church walls lead to the development of the technique of perspective? (**fresco, perspective**)

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# Vocabulary Activity *Cont.*



## The Renaissance in Europe

6. **Directions:** Look at the phrases in the list below. If the phrase describes some aspect of humanism, check the box next to the phrase. (**humanism**)

<input type="checkbox"/>	belief that people can never achieve their full potential
<input type="checkbox"/>	value of a liberal education
<input type="checkbox"/>	revival of classical Greek and Latin
<input type="checkbox"/>	religion-centered view of life
<input type="checkbox"/>	development of well-rounded citizens
<input type="checkbox"/>	neglect of physical education
<input type="checkbox"/>	growth of reading public
<input type="checkbox"/>	support for medieval ways of thinking about the world

## Academic Vocabulary

**Directions:** Include in your answers to the questions below the vocabulary words in parentheses.

7. Why were the five major Italian states of Rome, Venice, Milan, Florence, and Naples able to so thoroughly dominate Italian culture during the Renaissance? (**dominate**)

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8. Briefly describe one key difference between the styles of painting developed in Italy and in Northern Europe during the Renaissance. (**style**)

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9. Why was a course of liberal studies considered the "core" of humanistic schools? (**core**)

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# Vocabulary Activity *Cont.*



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10. What did Christine de Pizan think women needed in order to attain levels of learning comparable with men's? (**attain**)

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11. How did circumstance play a role in the differences between art in Italian and Northern churches? (**circumstance**)

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**Directions:** Like many words, *decline* has several different definitions and can be used as more than one part of speech. Define the meaning of *decline* in each of the following sentences and identify the part of speech as noun or verb. (**decline**)

12. The fresco painter was so busy that he had to decline the request to paint another church.

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Part of Speech: \_\_\_\_\_

13. Savonarola's attacks led to the decline of the Medicis and their exile from Florence.

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Part of Speech: \_\_\_\_\_