



Art History

English Lessons



 www.ruthlessteacher.com



The Renaissance

Video Activity-The Renaissance (by The School of Life)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fI1OeMmwYjU>



Before watching

Do you know anything about the Renaissance?



Watch the video and answer the questions below:

1. When did the Renaissance take place?
2. According to the video, what is the main reason to study History?
3. Who was Lorenzo de Medici and what did he do?
4. Apart from making money what else were the Medicis interested in?
5. What was the secret to the Medicis' impact?



- 6. What was Lorenzo's idea about art? What was the impact of that?**

- 7. What did the intellectual leaders of the Renaissance want?**

- 8. What is the new idea that fascinates city fathers throughout Italy?**

- 9. What makes some periods of time exceptional concerning the amount of great artists one can find?**

- 10. Why is the Renaissance described as a "heroic age of advertising"? What ideology was this based on?**

- 11. What was the ideology shared by Ficino, Lorenzo and Botticelli?**

- 12. What does the video suggest regarding ourselves and the way we should pay tribute to the Renaissance?**

- 13. What is your opinion on all that?**



1. When did the Renaissance take place?

It encompasses a roughly 300-year period in Europe (1300-1600)

2. According to the video what is the main reason to study History?

To rescue certain good, provocative and inspiring ideas that have been lost in the past in order to put them to use in relation to the dilemmas and problems of our own times.

3. Who was Lorenzo de Medici and what did he do?

In 1469 Florence a 20-year-old nobleman from one of the grandest families of Florence, Lorenzo, takes over the family business, the Medici Bank (since 1397) the most respected financial institution in Europe. He has a great gift for business. During his lifetime the bank will open new posts in many cities and lend lots of money to significant people.

4. Apart from making money what else are the Medicis interested in?

They are ambitious about how to spend it. They believe that the express purpose of what we would now call philanthropy is to promote beauty, truth and wisdom in the world.

5. What was the secret to the Medicis' impact?

That they didn't see themselves as there simply to hand over the cash to allow artists, architects and scholars to do whatever they wanted. The Medicis had a vision, a mission for the arts and philosophy.

6. What was Lorenzo's idea about art? What was the impact of that?

He thought of art as a kind of education. Therefore artists were asked to illustrate key philosophical truths e.g. the importance of kindness and compassion. They promoted serenity and glorified the best qualities of the state and of good leadership.

7. What did the intellectual leaders of the Renaissance want?

They took a relentlessly practical view of things. They wanted first and foremost to run their societies successfully, to make their people wise and to build magnificent cities.

8. What is the new idea that fascinates city fathers throughout Italy?

They have fallen in love with a remarkable new idea: that their cities should be the focus of an unparalleled attention to beauty. Successful urbanism is never an accident for the Renaissance, it was a philosophical mission. They built such great cities because of an



idea: that we are to a large extent shaped by the character of the buildings around us. Making sure that the public realm conveys dignity and calm is more than a luxury. It can help to ensure the sanity, vigor and happiness of a whole population.

9. What makes some periods of time exceptional concerning the amount of great artists one can find?

It's arguable that every age has roughly similar amounts of latent talent among its artists. What makes certain ages extraordinary is that they know what to do with the talent. They give artists a mission, they have a clear sense of what art is for and they therefore reward and invest in the artists properly.

10. Why is the Renaissance described as a “heroic age of advertising”? What ideology was this based on?

The focus was not on selling consumer goods, it was on selling beauty, truth and wisdom. The energy we still feel behind their art arose from a coherent ideological programme. The Renaissance wanted to put painting in the service of ideas and to make these ideas palpable, effective and life changing. One thing the Renaissance was constantly advertising is philosophy.

11. What was the ideology shared by Ficino, Lorenzo and Botticelli?

It was to line up our basic desire on the side of the good so that we become kinder and sweeter and more intellectually ambitious not because we've rejected all the charms of the world which hardly anyone ever can but with the help of all the charms of the world.

12. What does the video suggest regarding ourselves and the way we should pay tribute to the Renaissance?

We should use their eyes to look at our world. We should be trying to generate a Renaissance in our own societies with the help of these geniuses. Learning lessons from them about: How to spend big money, How to use the humanities to improve our lives rather than to impress a scholarly community, How to devote proper energy to creating livable beautiful cities, How to harness the power of art so as to make the good things in the world attractive and desirable, Try to change our world for the better.





For more ideas on how to use masterpieces of Art to teach critical thinking, you can read my blog post here:

<https://www.ruthlessteacher.com/how-to-use-works-of-arts-to-teach-critical-thinking/>

And about the use of images in the language classroom, another of my blog posts here:

<https://www.ruthlessteacher.com/the-use-of-images-in-language-learning/>

I have made a pdf with a set of questions that I use a lot with my students when we study all types of images, you can download it here:

<https://www.ruthlessteacher.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Questions-about-images-in-class.pdf>





The “School of life” is a British organisation with a vast library of articles and videos

You can explore their website here:

<https://www.theschooloflife.com/>

and their Youtube channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@theschooloflifetv>



Thank you for downloading my material! By downloading this you are agreeing that:

The content is the intellectual property of the website www.ruthlessteacher.com and its creator Charisi Giolanta and is protected by law. All the material in print or digital form is intended for personal educational use only. It may in no way be sold, traded, modified, transmitted and/or distributed in whole or in part, nor translated and adapted. Only fragmentary republishing of this educational material is permitted on other websites, provided it is always accompanied by the page name (Ruthless Teacher) and relevant hyperlinks redirecting to <http://ruthlessteacher.com/>. Retransmission and sharing of hyperlinks that lead to direct viewing and saving/downloading of the files is prohibited.

Major thanks to: Canva, Wikipedia and Wikiart, Pixabay, Pexels, Google Fonts and all the museums that host the works of art.

For any questions you may have you can message me at info@ruthlessteacher.com

Σας ευχαριστώ που κατεβάσατε το υλικό μου! Αυτόματα συμφωνείτε ότι :

Το περιεχόμενο αποτελεί πνευματική ιδιοκτησία του διαδικτυακού τόπου www.ruthlessteacher.com και της δημιουργού του Χαρίση Γιολάντας και προστατεύεται από τη νομοθεσία. Το εκπαιδευτικό υλικό σε εκτυπώσιμη ή ψηφιακή μορφή προορίζεται για προσωπική εκπαιδευτική χρήση μόνο. Δεν μπορεί σε καμία περίπτωση να αποτελέσει συνολικά ή εν μέρει αντικείμενο πώλησης, διαπραγμάτευσης, τροποποίησης, μετάδοσης ή/και διανομής με κάθε τρόπο. Επιτρέπεται σε άλλους διαδικτυακούς τόπους μόνο η αποσπασματική αναδημοσίευση εκπαιδευτικού υλικού, με την προϋπόθεση να συνοδεύεται πάντα από το όνομα της σελίδας (Ruthless Teacher) και τους σχετικούς υπερσυνδέσμους που ανακατευθύνουν στο <http://ruthlessteacher.com/>. Απαγορεύεται η αναμετάδοση και κοινοποίηση υπερσυνδέσμων που οδηγούν σε απευθείας προβολή και αποθήκευση/download των αρχείων.

Πολλά ευχαριστώ σε: Canva, Wikipedia, Wikiart, Pixabay, Pexels, Google Fonts και όλα τα μουσεία στα οποία βρίσκονται τα έργα τέχνης.

Για ο,τιδήποτε χρειάζεστε μπορείτε να επικοινωνήσετε μαζί μου στο info@ruthlessteacher.com

Follow me for more educational material-Ακολουθήστε με για περισσότερο υλικό

