

## The Renaissance Period (1485-1625)

- I. In Europe (mainland)
  - A. Began in Italy
    1. 14<sup>th</sup> century (1300s)
    2. Famous writers – Boccaccio, Petrarch, Dante
    3. Others – artists, sculptors, architects, etc. (like Da Vinci)
    4. Humanists – scholars and educators who emphasized the capacities of the human mind and achievements of human culture
    5. Florence – center of culture
    6. Flourished under Lorenzo de Medici
  - B. Spread gradually to other European countries
    1. France, Germany, etc.
    2. Added own native literary and artistic traditions
  - C. Also a time of exploration and discovery
    1. 1492 – Columbus reached the New World
    2. Beginning of colonization and trade in New World
- II. In England
  - A. Later Renaissance than rest of Europe
    1. War of Roses (1455-1485) – held internal attention
    2. Printing press introduced (1476) by William Caxton helped usher in Renaissance
    3. Protestant Reformation – affected Renaissance in England
      - a. Henry VIII – split with Catholic Church
      - b. Anglican Church (Protestant) established
    4. Flourished under Queen Elizabeth (1558-1603)
      - a. Encouraged arts
      - b. Promoted religious tolerance
      - c. Financially astute
      - d. Defeated Spanish Armada – 1588 (gave England naval supremacy)
    5. Jacobean Era (1603-1625)
      - a. Queen Elizabeth had no direct heirs
      - b. Succeeded by James I of Scotland (Stuart)
      - c. Period of religious and political unrest
        1. Puritans – goal was to “purify” the church
        2. Opposition to taxes
        3. New scientific theories
  - B. Literature – no longer chiefly oral
    1. Poetry
      - a. Lyric poems more popular than narrative
        1. Sonnets and sonnet sequences
        2. Pastoral verse
    2. Drama
      - a. High point of English drama

- b. Shakespeare – greatest ever
- c. Permanent theaters
- 3. Prose
  - a. Less popular than poetry and drama
  - b. Scientific and philosophical prose – Francis Bacon
  - c. Most famous – King James Version of the Bible (1611)
  - d. Other writers – Sidney (criticism), Nashe (novel), Raleigh