**Italian Renaissance – Quotation Mingle**

The Black Death, starvation, and warfare had overtaken Europe about 1300. These catastrophic events and the enormous loss of life may have led to some of the changes of the 1300s.

### As specialization increased, regions had to trade for the products they did not produce.

The northern city-states of Venice, Milan, and Florence became bustling centers of commerce.

### Knowledge of arts such a painting, sculpture, and architecture increased as nobles and merchants south to display their new wealth.

### The leading merchants and bankers pour their wealth into creating a city (Florence) that rivaled any other in Europe.

The ideas led to a sustained period of renewed interest and remarkable developments in art, literature, science and learning.

This era became known as the Renaissance(a French word for “rebirth”).

### Along the way, they began to think more like the classical thinkers who had believed in the human capacity to create and achieve.

### Under their influence, the church’s scholastic education began to give way to the classics: rhetoric, grammar, poetry, history and Latin and Greek. These subjects came to be known as humanities, and the movement they inspired is known as humanism.

Humanists rediscovered ancient texts on anatomy, geography, and astronomy.

### They believed that the potential of the human mind was almost limitless.

The church no longer served as a source of stability and peace. Looking for comfort and guidance in the midst of this instability, some people turned to a form of secular humanism.

Science would soon become and important avenue of inquiry, challenging the church’s teachings about the world.

### Even more than politics, the arts reflected the new humanist spirit. Whereas medieval artists had used idealized and symbolic representations of religious themes, Renaissance artists depicted the things they observed in nature.

The buyers of art, or patrons, might be wealthy individuals, city governments, or the church.

### Wealthy individuals competed against one another, displaying their wealth and modernity through the purchase of artworks.

Renaissance artists wanted to paint the natural world as realistically as possible, which was a change from the style of the Middle Ages.

Although many artists continued to choose religious subjects, artists began to pain and sculpt scenes from Greek and Roman myths.

### Churches, palaces, and public buildings incorporated columns and domes inspired by those of classical Greek and Roman architecture.

The decrease in population allowed farmers to produce more food than they needed.

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Suddenly the doors to a new world of ideas opened to Italians who could read.