



Overarching Critical Inquiry

Renaissance Europe: Origins of a Western Worldview

How did the exchange of ideas and knowledge during the Renaissance influence the worldview of the Western world?

Synopsis

Many of the specific outcomes related to:

General Outcome 8.2 "Origins of the Western Worldview: Renaissance Europe" may be addressed by inviting students to consider how the ideas and beliefs of the Renaissance shaped the Western world. Throughout this inquiry, students consider the components of a worldview and the influence of the Renaissance on the prevailing worldview.

Critical Challenges

Students might explore this overarching theme by completing these challenges:



[What Was the Renaissance Worldview?](#)

Students learn about Medieval and Renaissance worldviews by examining examples of creative works from each era and determining the most significant change in the worldviews between these two historical periods



[Evolving Worldview](#)

Students investigate Renaissance worldview as represented in the arts, science, religion, politics, exploration and philosophy to determine the extent to which these influences have shaped their personal worldviews



[Trading Centres](#)

Students consider the influence of physical geography on trade among various regions of Renaissance Europe by determining the best location for a successful trading centre



[First-hand Accounts](#)

Students examine the imperialist and expansionist worldviews of explorers in the Age of Discovery by rewriting selected primary documents based upon an alternative point of view to create a new "authentic" document



[Great City-states of the Renaissance](#)

Students learn about the rise of powerful Italian city-states during the Renaissance by ranking city-states in terms of their influence in shaping a Renaissance worldview



[Witness to Yesterday](#)

As a possible culminating challenge, students learn about the influence of significant individuals during the Renaissance by portraying interviews between assigned historical individuals and modern-day journalists and by deciding which three historical persons most influenced the Western worldview



[The Knowledge Explosion](#)

Students explore the major Renaissance contributions in fields such as astronomy, mathematics, science, politics, religion, art, literature, philosophy and exploration. Students prepare a presentation or a display on the impact of most significant

developments in an assigned field on the exchange of ideas, the growth of knowledge and shifts in worldviews

Help Documents

[Embedding Critical Thinking Into Teaching and Learning](#)

PDF

This document provides a definition of critical thinking, and discusses how to embed critical thinking into teaching and learning.

[Definitions of Terms Used in Overarching Critical Inquiries](#)

This document provides definitions of Overarching Critical Inquiry, Critical Challenge, Modelling the Tools, Support Material, Graphic Organizer, Assessment, and Background Information.

[Meeting the Diverse Learning Needs of All Students](#) PDF

This document provides suggestions to help teachers plan for diverse learning needs.

Reference Charts

The following charts provide a quick overview of correlations, references, and summaries for all the Critical Challenges. In the charts, the Critical Challenges are organized according to which Overarching Critical Inquiry they address.

- [Outcomes Addressed in the Critical Challenges](#)
- [Websites Referred to in the Critical Challenges](#)
- [Literature Referred to in the Critical Challenges](#)
- [Image Collections Referred to in the Critical Challenges](#)
- [Summaries of the Critical Challenges](#)
- [Summaries of the Support Materials \(K-12\)](#)
- [Summaries of the Modelling the Tools \(K-12\)](#)

Last updated: July 1, 2014 | ([Revision History](#))

[Copyright](#) | [Feedback](#)

