

I-SEARCH INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

Renaissance / Reformation / Scientific Revolution

1. **PARADOXES:**
In an effort to change the Catholic Church, Martin Luther inadvertently broke away from it and created a new branch of Christianity called Protestantism. Create a PowerPoint showing the similarities and difference between the Catholics and Protestants.
2. **ATTRIBUTES:**
One of history's most important inventions was Gutenberg's printing press. It allowed information to spread rapidly and cheaply. Build a working model of a printing press and explain its parts to the class.
3. **ANALOGIES:**
William Shakespeare wrote many plays about real people, such as Romeo and Juliet, Henry V, and Julius Caesar. Today, many movies "borrow" Shakespeare's work, such as the speech from Henry V (Braveheart, The Patriot). Make a short video showing video clips that demonstrate Shakespeare's influence.
4. **DISCREPANCIES:**
Galileo was excommunicated because of his theory that the Earth revolved around the Sun, based on Church doctrine. Write a short play demonstrating Galileo's conflict – should he continue trying to prove his theories with science or avoid excommunication by recanting (taking back what he said)?
5. **PROVOCATIVE QUESTIONS:**
One of the most influential families of the Renaissance were the Medicis, led by Cosimo and Lorenzo. Create an art gallery showing some of the works they commissioned (think Brunelleschi, Botticelli, Michelangelo, da Vinci). Consider how the Renaissance would have been different if not for the influence of the Medicis.
6. **EXAMPLES OF CHANGE:**
Until Brunelleschi developed the use of perspective in art, paintings were very listless and not realistic (*Lamentation*). Throughout the Renaissance, though, artists strove to create a sense of realism (*Death of the Virgin*). Create two original paintings that show the style used in Gothic art and the style used in art of the High Renaissance.
7. **EXAMPLES OF HABIT:**
The study of history is usually the story of men. Create a PowerPoint showing the impact of women during the Renaissance (Queen Elizabeth I, Joan of Arc, Anne Boleyn, etc.)
8. **ORGANIZED RANDOM SEARCH:**
Rewrite the words for the Billy Joel Song, "We Didn't Start the Fire" to fit the people and events of the Renaissance. Sing it in front of the class.
9. **SKILLS OF SEARCH:**
Research the clothing of Renaissance, nobles and peasants, men and women. Create paper dolls showing a number of different styles of the clothing worn during the Renaissance.

PRODUCTS

A Dance/A Letter/ A Lesson	Oral Defense
Advertisement	Oral Report
Animated Movie	Painting Pamphlet
Annotated Bibliography	Pantomime
Art Gallery	Papier Mache
Block Picture Story	Petition
Bulletin Board	Photo Essay
Bumper Sticker	Pictures
Chart	Picture Story for Children
Choral Reading	Plaster of Paris Model
Clay Sculpture	Play
Code	Poetry
Collage	Political Cartoon
Collection	Pop-Up Book
Comic Strip	Postage Stamp,
Computer Program	Commemoratives
Costumes	Press Conference
Crossword Puzzle	Project Cube
Database	Prototype
Debate	Puppet
Demonstration	Puppet Show
Detailed Illustration	Puzzle
Diorama	Rap
Diary	Radio Program
Display	Rebus Story
Edibles	Recipe
Editorial Essay	Riddle
Etching	Role Play
Experiment	Science Fiction Story
Fact File	Sculpture
Fairy Tale	Skit
Family Tree	Slide Show
Fiction Story	Slogan
Film	Soliloquy
Filmstrip	Song
Flip Book	Sound
Game	Story Telling-Tall Tales
Graph	Survey
Hidden Picture	Tapes–Audio–Video
Illustrated Story	Television Program
Interview	Timeline
Jingle	Transparencies
Joke Book	Travel Brochure
Journal	Venn Diagram
Labeled Diagram	Web Home Page
Large Scale Drawing	Working Hypothesis
Learning Center	Write a new law
Letter to the Editor	Video Film
Map with Legend	
Mazes	
Mural	
Museum Exhibit	
Musical Instruments	
Needlework	
Newspaper Story	
Non-Fiction	

10. **TOLERANCE FOR AMBIGUITY:**

Create a board game based on the art of the Renaissance.

11. **INTUITIVE EXPRESSION:**

Create a pop-up book based on the life of Leonard da Vinci. Make sure to include his notebooks, inventions, and paintings.

12. **ADJUSTMENT TO DEVELOPMENT:**

Create a giant timeline showing the progress and inventions of the 1500s and place it next to a timeline showing the same thing from the 1900s. Which period was more important to mankind?

13. **STUDY CREATIVE PEOPLE AND PROCESS:**

Choose a person that lived in the Renaissance. Create a newspaper story on his/her successes and failures.

14. **EVALUATE SITUATIONS:**

Create a museum collection of items that may have been found in the Medici home. Show how they tell a story of the Medici family.

15. **CREATIVE READING SKILL:**

Don Quixote is one of the most famous stories from the Renaissance. Read it and create a mural depicting Don Quixote's famous quest.

16. **CREATIVE LISTENING SKILL:**

Create a story about one of the artists we talked about in class, making sure everything is true and accurate. Then tell a story to the class about the same person, but make up a tall tale and see how many inaccuracies the class can catch.

17. **CREATIVE WRITING SKILL:**

Research a particular from Renaissance that interests you. Use your research to write a "Choose Your Way Through History" story that you can read to the class. Include several places in the story where the class must choose what happens next. Create several endings for their choices.

18. **VISUALIZATION SKILL:**

Create a deck of playing cards using the people, inventions, and works of art from the Renaissance. Include a short fact about each.

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