

Italian Renaissance Art

From Gothic to Italian Renaissance Art

Reading Questions I

Gardner's Chapter 19

1. Why was the period beginning in the early 14th century called the Renaissance?
2. Define city state. Define oligarchy. Define guild.
3. Describe two major events that happened in the 14th century that changed Europe significantly.
4. Which two examples of vernacular literature are given in the textbook? Why is vernacular language important?
5. What is Italian Renaissance humanism? How is it different from Greek humanism?
6. What was Petrarch's role in promoting humanism?
7. Why do some historians consider this period late Gothic?
8. The Saint Francis Altarpiece is considered similar to which earlier style? Why?
9. Describe the subject of the Saint Francis Altarpiece.
10. Why is Nicola Pisano considered an early Renaissance sculptor?
11. Compare a Nicola Pisano sculpture with Giovanni Pisano's?
12. What is the significance of Cimabue's Madonna Enthroned with Angels?
13. What were Giotto's influences?

14. How does Giotto use the “early scientific” method to create his work?
15. What makes Giotto’s Lamentation a significant work? Describe the work.
16. How is Giotto’s use of light unique?
17. What were Giotto’s contributions to painting?
18. Why is the Virgin Mary an important figure in Sienese culture?
19. Discuss how Duccio’s Maesta altarpiece is different than a Byzantine painting or mosaic.
20. What elements are blended in Simone Martini’s International Style work Annunciation?
21. Describe the process for becoming an artist in Renaissance Italy.
22. Describe the subject and style of the fresco Effects of Good Government, Peaceful City by Ambrogio Lorenzetti.
23. Why is this fresco significant?
24. Compare Florence Cathedral with Cologne cathedral.

Key Points

- Painters emerge from the Gothic era with a new found sense of naturalism.
- Medieval art (Gothic, Romanesque, Byzantine) continued during the 14th century mostly in architecture.
- Artists began to look back at the classical era for methods of representation.