

Renaissance Worldviews

This worksheet examines how the Renaissance shaped the worldview of the Western world through the exchange of ideas and knowledge ([Topic](#)). It also looks at how beliefs and values connect to time, place and society, and at the factors driving change across Renaissance Europe ([Outcome](#), [Outcome](#)).

Exercises

1. Matching: Key Terms

Match each term to its correct description.

Term	Description
A) Humanism	_____
B) City-state	_____
C) Patron	_____
D) Age of Discovery	_____

Descriptions:

1. An independent, self-governing city and its surrounding territory, such as Florence, Venice or Genoa
2. A worldview centred on human potential, reason and achievement rather than solely on religious teaching
3. A person or family who financially supports artists, scholars or scientists
4. A period of European exploration and expansion that spread European contact, trade and influence overseas

2. Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer for each question.

a) Which factor most directly explains why powerful city-states like Venice and Genoa emerged in Renaissance Europe? ([Outcome](#))

- A) Increased trade and wealth from commerce
- B) A shared national language across Europe
- C) A single ruler controlling all of Europe
- D) The invention of the printing press alone

b) According to the questions explored in 8.2.4, how did physical geography affect Renaissance Europe? ([Outcome](#))

- A) It had no effect on trade or competition
- B) It shaped trade routes and competition among European countries
- C) It prevented any contact between regions
- D) It made all regions equally wealthy

c) Which best describes a humanist worldview as it developed during the Renaissance? ([Outcome](#))

- A) Rejecting all forms of art and learning
- B) Valuing human reason, achievement and individual potential
- C) Focusing only on farming techniques
- D) Isolating Europe from outside contact

3. Short Answer

Explain, in two or three sentences, how the exchange of ideas and knowledge during the Renaissance contributed to shaping the worldview of the Western world. ([Topic](#))

4. Fill in the Blank

Complete each sentence using a word or phrase from the list below.

Word bank: geographic location, expansionist, intercultural contact, societal context

- a) Beliefs and values are shaped by time, _____ and societal context. ([Outcome](#))
- b) Beliefs and values are shaped by time, geographic location and _____. ([Outcome](#))
- c) The Age of Discovery and the rise of imperialism can be seen as expressions of an _____ worldview. ([Outcome](#))
- d) Exploration and _____ during the Renaissance affected the citizenship and identity of Europeans. ([Outcome](#))

5. Extended Response

Choose one of the following areas of Renaissance growth: astronomy, mathematics, science, politics, religion, or the arts. Describe how the Renaissance sparked the growth and exchange of ideas and knowledge in that area, and explain why this exchange mattered for people at the time. ([Outcome](#))

6. True or False

Write True or False beside each statement. If a statement is false, rewrite it correctly on the line below.

- a) Renaissance Europe formed the basis for the worldview of the Western world. _____ ([Outcome](#))
 - b) Thinkers and philosophers had no influence on society during the Renaissance. _____ ([Outcome](#))
 - c) Increased trade during the Renaissance had no connection to the rise of city-states. _____ ([Outcome](#))
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Answer Key

- 1. A-2, B-1, C-3, D-4
- 2. a) A, b) B, c) B
- 3. Answers should describe how the exchange of ideas and knowledge across areas such as astronomy, mathematics, science, politics, religion and the arts helped shape a distinct Western worldview during the Renaissance ([Topic](#), [Outcome](#)).
- 4. a) geographic location, b) societal context, c) expansionist, d) intercultural contact
- 5. Answers will vary depending on the area chosen but should describe growth and exchange of ideas in that field and connect it to the shaping of a Renaissance worldview ([Outcome](#)).
- 6. a) True, b) False - thinkers and philosophers influenced society in the development of a humanist worldview, c) False - increased trade led to the emergence of powerful city-states such as Florence, Venice and Genoa