

# The Scientific Age of Literature

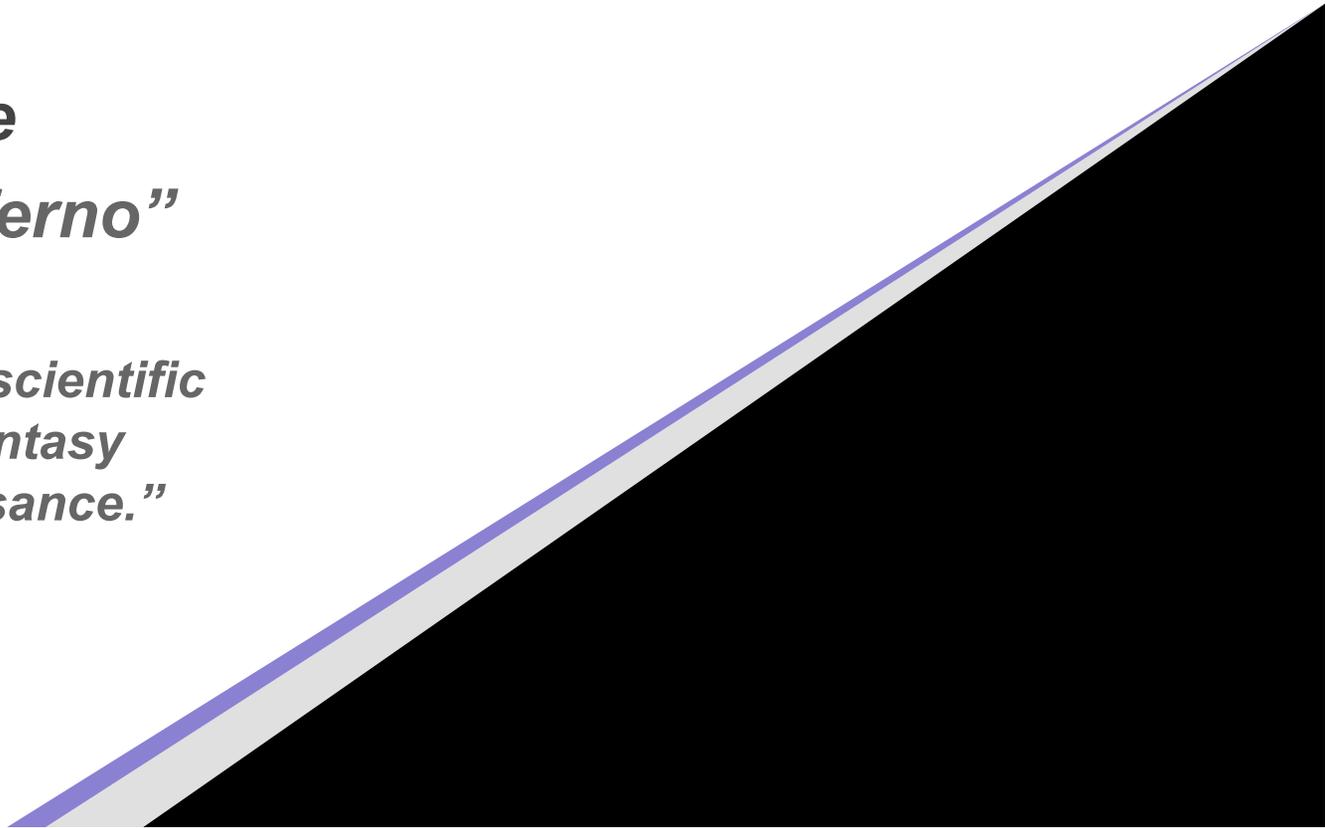
Target: *“I can understand the rise of scientific discoveries and their influence on fantasy fiction.”*

# The Renaissance:

*Civilization: Europe*

*Literature: “The Inferno”*

*Target: “I can show how scientific discoveries influenced fantasy fiction during the Renaissance.”*



**checklist**

# Part 1

Overview (reading) with Teacher Assigned

# Overview: The Renaissance

This cultural movement began in Italy in the late Middle Ages (1250 AD) and spread throughout Europe (1550 AD). The word “Renaissance” is the French word for “**rebirth**”.

## Renaissance Characteristics: Rediscovering the past

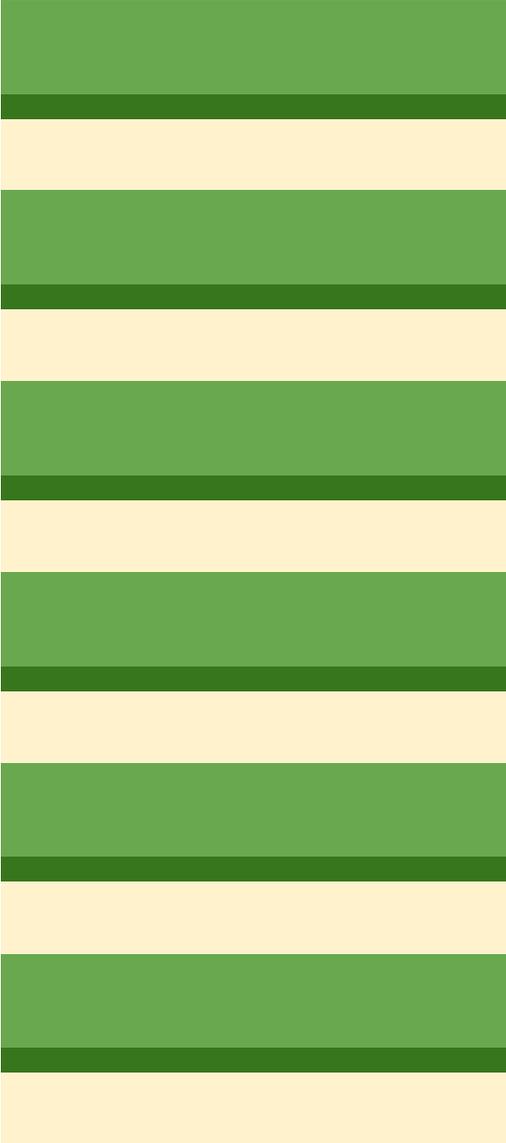
- ❑ The Renaissance period was a time of new discoveries in art, music, literature, philosophy, science and technology, architecture, religion and spirituality.
- ❑ Most of these new discoveries were inspired by long forgotten scientific and literary texts of the **Classical Age**. This included Greek and Roman art, literature and science.
- ❑ These discoveries inspired a new science based on **direct observation**, rather than relying on tradition, or taking the word of authority figures (religious leaders and wealthy landowners).

## Renaissance Achievements: Conventional wisdom is challenged

- ❑ The artistic and scientific contributions of **Leonardo da Vinci** and **Galileo Galilei** challenge old ideas about science and the solar system held by religious and political leaders.
- ❑ **Johannes Gutenberg** invents the printing press and helps spread new ideas throughout Europe.
- ❑ **Martin Luther** challenges the spiritual power of the Catholic Church and starts a new branch of Christianity.

## Renaissance literature: “The Divine Comedy” (1321, Italy)

- The Divine Comedy describes Dante Alighieri’s 3-part travels through Hell, Purgatory, and Heaven.
- On a deeper level, the story represents the soul's journey towards God.
- To tell this complex story, Dante uses the Christian theology and secular philosophy of his day. He also uses people, fictional and real, from ancient Greek and Roman literature and history to help tell his story.
- ❑ The most famous book of the Divine Comedy is **The Inferno**, where Dante’s travels through the **NINE** circles of Hell, guided by the great ancient Roman poet, Virgil, whose writings inspired Dante.



# Overview: The Renaissance

(Teacher Assigned)

Read “**Overview: The Renaissance**” and answer the section questions. Read carefully. Use highlighting/underlining to help you locate answers in the text.

## **Renaissance Characteristics: Rediscovering the past**

1. How exactly did the ancient Greeks and Romans inspire people in the late Middle Ages?

## **Renaissance Achievements: Conventional wisdom is challenged**

1. What common achievements occurred during the Renaissance?

## **Renaissance literature: “The Divine Comedy” (1321, Italy)**

1. How is Dante inspired by ancient Greek and Roman literature?

# Part 2

Video (audio-visual option) with Teacher Assigned  
or  
Articles (reading option) with Teacher Assigned

# **Video: “All About The Renaissance”**

(packet handout)

### 3 Articles: All About The Renaissance (option a)

#### Introduction To The Renaissance

- **Highlight** the meaning of the word Renaissance. (para 1)
- “The thoughts of very wise classical philosophers were lost and forgotten.” Underline reasons why people were no longer wanted to learn about the world around them. (para 2)
- **Highlight** how this changed. (para 3)
- Underline the meaning of Humanism. (para 3)
- **Highlight** how the Renaissance got started. (para 4)

#### Renaissance Italy: Where it All Started

- **Highlight** what makes Italy ideal for shipping. (para 1)
- Underline two ways Italy became the crossroads of the West and East. (para 2)
- **Highlight** why Italy was more receptive to change during the Renaissance. (para 3)
- Underline the two-class system during the feudal system. **Highlight** how the middle class changed this during the Renaissance. (para 4)
- Underline how the new middle class supported the ideas of literature and art during the Renaissance. (para 5)

#### Renaissance: Spread of Ideas

- **Highlight** two things that help spread new ideas during the Renaissance. (para 1)
- Underline what new ideas were studied in the Byzantine Empire. (para 2)
- **Highlight** how these new ideas spread to Italy. (para 3)
- Underline reasons why books were unavailable to most people. (para 4)
- **Highlight** how the printing press worked. (para 5)
- Underline how the printing press helped spread ideas. (para 6)

# **“What is the Renaissance?”**

**(Teacher Assigned)**

Demonstrate what you have learned about the Renaissance (from the video or articles) by completing **1** of the following **5**:

1. Create a storyboard (comic) mini-poster. Use 4-5 important examples from the reading to explain what you have learned.
2. Create a concept definition map. Use 4-5 important examples from the reading to explain what you have learned.
3. Create a serious/humorous poster of “Fun Facts We Never Knew About...”. (see example) Use 7-10 important examples from the reading to explain what you have learned.
4. Create poem. (Use the template to help you.)
5. Write a RACE paragraph. Use 3 important examples from the reading to explain what you have learned.

# Part 3

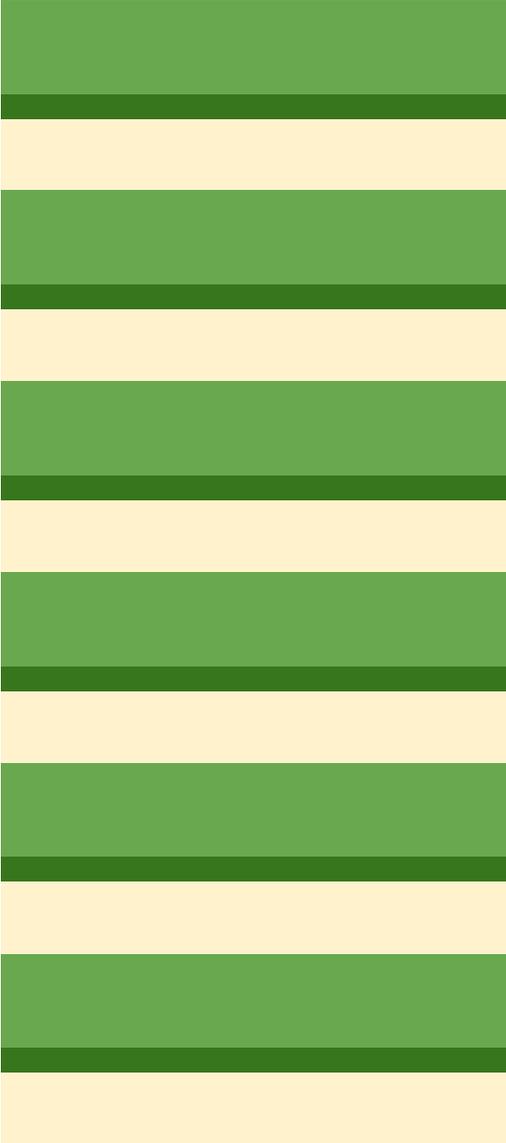
Article (capable/guided option)

&

Dante's The Inferno (Teacher Assigned)

&

Collection of Evidence (Teacher Assigned)



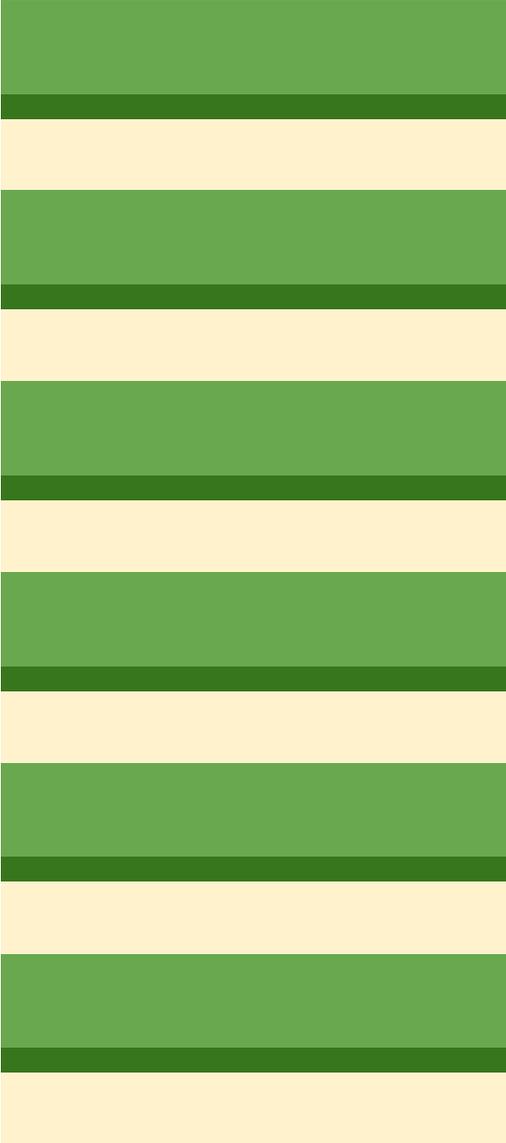
# What is Renaissance Writing?

(capable reader option)

## READ: “Renaissance Writing: Dante & Petrarch”

1. First read article without stopping.
2. Next, read the questions attached to the article. Understand what information you are asked to identify.
3. Reread the article and highlight or underline the answers.
4. Use the highlighted text to help you answer the 10 questions.

- ★ Please use complete sentences when writing the short-answer responses.
  - **Always restate the question as a statement.**
  - **Answer the question using examples from the text.**
  - **Cite the source (“In paragraph 3 it says...”)**



# What is Renaissance Writing?

(guided reader option)

## READ: “Renaissance Writing: Dante & Petrarch”

- (para 1) **Highlight** the poem’s main theme. Underline who the main character is.
- (para 2) Underline how this book helped other Italian writers. **Highlight** why most books were written in Latin.
- (para 3) **Highlight** what the poem is about. Underline the meaning of a muse and who Dante’s muse was. **Highlight** the meaning of humanism. Underline what the church says people should only focus on.
- (para 4) **Highlight** who Laura was.
- (para 5) Underline how Laura inspired (pleased) Petrarch.

- ★ Use the **highlighted/underlined** information to answer the questions.
- ★ Please use complete sentences when writing the short-answer responses.
  - **Always restate the question as a statement.**
  - **Answer the question using examples from the text.**
  - **Cite the source (“In paragraph 3 it says...”)**

# The Inferno (The Divine Comedy): Collection of evidence

<b>Setting? Characters? Plot?</b>	<b>Characteristics of Traditional Fantasy?</b>	<b>Themes?</b>	<b>Characteristics of Sci-Fi?</b>	<b>Connections between the Renaissance and The Inferno?</b>
<p>Setting (time &amp; place):</p> <p>Characters (who are they):</p> <p>Plot (what the main characters do, say and what is done to them):</p>	<p>(Identify the characteristics of fantasy fiction. Use the checklist to identify which characteristics are similar to <b>The Inferno.</b>)</p>	<p>(Identify literary themes similar to <b>The Inferno.</b>)</p>	<p>(Identify sci-fi characteristics similar to <b>The Inferno.</b>)</p>	<p>(Identify 1-3 characteristics of the Renaissance that are similar to <b>The Inferno.</b>)</p>