


## Module 12: The Renaissance

### Topic 2 Content: The Beginning of the Renaissance

#### Introduction



# THE BEGINNING OF THE RENAISSANCE

Click each factor on the left to explore why the Renaissance began in Italy. Exit the interactivity when you are done exploring the content.



*Image: The Florence Cathedral which features the dome engineered by Filippo Brunelleschi*

**MENU**


- Factor 1
- Factor 2
- Factor 3

Click each factor on the left to explore why the Renaissance began in Italy. Exit the interactivity when you are done exploring the content.

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#### Geography



# Factor 1

## GEOGRAPHY

**A major reason the Renaissance began in Italy is linked to geography. The city-states of Italy, positioned centrally on the Mediterranean Sea, were centers of trade and commerce. Italians easily served as a link between much of Europe and the Middle Eastern and Asian markets. As a result of being exposed to rare goods, Italian merchants grew prosperous. Wealthy merchants eventually pursued other interests, such as art.**

*Image: Italy featured on a map*

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- Factor 2
- Factor 3

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#### Center of Trade



## Factor 2

# CENTER OF TRADE

**The Renaissance also began in Italy because of its link to overseas trade. Specifically, overseas trade, stimulated by the Crusades, led to the growth of large city-states in northern Italy. Thus, northern Italy became urban, while the rest of Europe remained mostly rural. Since cities are often places where people exchange new ideas, they were an ideal breeding ground for the Renaissance.**

*Image: Milan, Italy*

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#### Greco-Roman Heritage



## Factor 3

### GRECO-ROMAN HERITAGE

Italy's classical heritage is a factor as to why the Renaissance began there. Renaissance scholars criticized the art and literature of the Middle Ages, and wanted to return to the learning of the Greeks and Romans. Renaissance artists and scholars drew inspiration from the Roman ruins that surrounded them. Scholars studied ancient Latin writings, and when Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Turks in 1453, Byzantine scholars fled to Rome with ancient Greek writings.

*Image: The Pietà by Michelangelo*

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