**Instructions:**

1. **Read Part I and identify:**
   1. **One Social Cause of the Renaissance:**
   2. **One Political Cause of the Renaissance:**
   3. **One Economic Cause of the Renaissance:**
2. **Read Part II and identify:**
   1. **Two Social Impacts of the Renaissance:**
   2. **Two Political Impacts of the Renaissance:**
   3. **Two Economic Impacts of the Renaissance:**
3. **Read the Part III Documents and answer the questions underneath each document**
4. **Write a TEAL paragraph in which you evaluate the impact of the Renaissance as a turning point in world history.  Make sure you use two specific impacts and one document from Part III in your answer.**
5. **Identify and explain.  three enduring issues from Part I, II and III.**

**Part I:  Historical Circumstances of the Renaissance**

The period from the 1300s to the 1500s was a time of great creativity and change in Europe. This period is called the Renaissance, which means “rebirth”. It was a golden age in the arts, literature, and sciences.  Each new intellectual advance paved the way for further advancements. The Renaissance began in Italy in the mid-1300s and then spread northward. Survivors of the black death returned to cities to make money and start over, and with higher wages they became wealthy quickly.  The cities of Italy were thriving centers of trade and manufacturing. Merchants in these cities had great wealth and were willing to use it to promote art and education.

           As the new merchant class grew, the population demanded more goods and trade resumed, many Italian coastal cities (cities on the Mediterranean Sea, which is between Europe, the Middle East and Asia) became centers for trade and wealth.  These cities were so powerful, they became known as city-states – a wealthy and powerful city. Some of these cities were ruled by nobles, but others were ruled by wealthy merchants such as the Medici Family who lived in (and ruled) Florence, Italy.

         The life and world of the merchant provided them with an experience, outlook on life and values that was a complete opposite of the noble lord.  The lord spent his days on an isolated manor, the merchant spent his days traveling the world and living in magnificent cities such as Florence and Venice.  While the Lord’s family title and land made him the undisputed authority, merchants saw their status rise and fall with the size their bank accounts. While the code of chivalry stressed loyalty to one’s lord, the merchant was loyal only to himself and his own business.  To the lord, the Bible was the only book he would need and the merchant’s thirsted for knowledge of many different fields (from mathematics to languages) in order to advance their businesses. Before long, the merchants were able to express these differences through the creation of a new value system.  In their attempts to create this value system, the merchants looked back to the Golden Ages of Athens and Rome as inspiration for their new culture.

         To show their wealth, greatness and power, these merchants and new type of ruler (not just based on feudalism) began to become patrons (donators/supporters) of the arts.  Merchant families like the Medicis had the appearance of nobility; they lived in beautiful homes, were well educated and employed great artists like Michaelangelo to paint pictures and build churches to beautify their city.  They did this for both business and because they were so rich just for pleasure.

In addition, the development of the printing press would transform Europe.  By 1300, papermaking and printing technology had reached Europe from China. The invention of movable type in the 1400s led to Johann Gutenberg’s printing of the Bible on his press in Germany in 1456.  Due to the printing press books became cheaper, easier to make and more readily available. This increased literacy and the spread of ideas and knowledge.

**Part II:  Impacts of the Renaissance as a Turning Point in World History**

During the Renaissance, Europeans developed a new way of thinking called humanism. During the   Middle Ages, Philosophers and writers had wondered about life after death. Renaissance humanists, on the other hand, were more curious about life in the present. Another feature of this new way of thinking was an emphasis on the achievements of the individual. Instead of religious issues, humanists examined secular (non-religious) worldly subjects that the ancient Greeks and Romans had studied. They hoped to use ancient learning to increase knowledge about their own times.

The Renaissance produced some of the greatest paintings, sculptures, and architecture in the history of the world. Renaissance architects rejected medieval forms of architecture. They returned to Greek and Romans styles for columns, arches, and domes. Artists were supported by merchants, popes, and princes.

The art of the time reflected humanist concerns. Many paintings still had religious subjects, but others portrayed important contemporary figures. Renaissance art was very realistic. Renaissance artists learned the rules of perspective—the technique used to give art a three dimensional effect. These artists also studied human anatomy and often worked from live models, so they could portray the body in amazingly accurate detail. Two of the most famous artists of the Renaissance were Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci.  Michelangelo was a sculptor, engineer, poet, painter, and architect. He is probably best known for is enormous mural on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican. Michelangelo is also well known for his statue of the biblical character David. Leonardo da Vinci was very much interested in human anatomy, and he dissected human corpses to see how muscles and bones worked. His sketches for flying machines and underwater boats were made centuries before the first airplane or submarine was actually built. The Mona Lisa is Leonardo da Vinci’s most famous painting.

The humanist interest in this world was also expressed in the literature of the day. In the late Middle Ages, people had begun to write in the everyday language of ordinary people. Instead of scholarly Greek and Latin, they used vernacular languages such as Italian, French, English, and other languages. Dante Alighieri was an Italian writer who wrote in the years before the Renaissance took hold. Dante wrote about a journey through hell and heaven in his masterpiece The Divine Comedy. Because he wrote in the language of the Italian people, not in Latin, he is seen as a forerunner of the Renaissance. William Shakespeare, writing in England around 1600, is another figure of the Renaissance. Shakespeare wrote extensively about human beings and the joys and sorrows of human life.v  Machiavelli Niccolo Machiavelli wrote *The Prince* in the early 1500s. In this book he advises rulers on how to gain and maintain power. He tells rulers that they should use whatever methods are necessary to ensure their success. His work is seen today as a realistic picture of the politics of his time.

         By the late 1400s, Renaissance ideas had spread to Northern Europe – especially England, France, Germany, and Flanders (now part of France and the Netherlands).  The northern Renaissance developed its own character. For example, the artists were especially interested in realism. The Renaissance ideal of human dignity inspired some northern humanists to develop plans for social reform based on Judeo-Christian values.  In 1494, a war between France and Naples made many Italian artists and writers left for a safer life in Northern Europe. In addition, Northern European artists who studied in Italy carried Renaissance ideas back to their homelands.

         Even as the artists were creating a bold new realism, scientists were engaged in a revolution of their own. Copernicus and Galileo had developed an unprecedented understanding of our planet’s place in the cosmos, proving that the Earth revolved around the Sun.  Advances in chemistry led to the rise of gunpowder, while a new model of mathematics stimulated new financial trading systems and made it easier than ever to navigate across the world.

**List of New Renaissance Values:**

1)  **Humanism:**  valuing the beauty and accomplishments of people.  Valuing the ability to succeed.

2)  **Secularism:**   non-religious values

3)  **Individualism:**   valuing individual accomplishments

4)  **Rationalism:**  valuing logical and scientific thought and education.

5)  **Classicism:**  valuing the ancient (or classic) Greek and Roman societies and their art, literature, science, values, etc.

6)  **Materialism:**  valuing wealth

7)  **Idealism:**  valuing perfection

8)  **Scientific Inquiry:**  Questioning and experimenting

**Part III:   Document Analysis**

**Document #1:  Christine De Pizan, *The Book of The City of Ladies,* 1405**

*“I am amazed by the opinion of some men who claim that they do not want their daughters, wives, or kinswomen to be educated because their mores [morals] would be ruined as a result. . . . Here you can clearly see that not all opinions of men are based on reason and that these men are wrong.”*

**1)       What is the purpose of this document?**

**2)        How does the document illustrate the impact of the Renaissance as a turning point?**

**Document #2:  Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince,* 1532**

*Here a question arises: whether it is better to be loved than feared, or the reverse. The answer is, of course, that it would be best to be both loved and feared. But since the two rarely come together, anyone compelled to choose will find greater security in being feared than in being loved…Love endures by a bond which men, being scoundrels, may break whenever it serves their advantage to do so; but fear is supported by the dread of pain, which is ever present.”*

**1)       What is the purpose of this document?**

**2)      Who do you think is the audience for this document?  Explain.**

**Document #3:   Pieter Bruegel’s *Peasant Wedding*, 1568**

**1)      How does this document reflect the impact of the Renaissance as a turning point?**

**Document #4:  Raphael, *The School of Athens*, 1511**

Raphael’s *The School of Athens features many of the great Classical Greek philosophers, scientists and mathematicians  such as Plato, Aristotle, Euclid, Ptolemy and Pythagorus.*

**1)      How does this document illustrate the impact of the Renaissance?**

**Document #5:  Secondary Source:  John R. Hale, Great Ages of Man: A History of the World’s Cultures: Renaissance, Time-Life, 1965**

. . . In the Middle Ages to praise man was to praise *(think highly of)* God, for man was a creation of God. But Renaissance writers praised man himself as a creator. They played down the sinfulness he was born with and focused on his ability to think and act for himself, to produce works of art, to guide the destiny of others…This new vision of man came from a better understanding of self. Medieval men had been preoccupied with trying to be good Christians, but Renaissance men were much more intrigued *(interested)* with exploring, and being proud of, their own personalities.

**1)       What is the purpose of the document?**

**2)      How does this document demonstrate the impact of the Renaissance as a turning point?**

**3)      Choose one of the above primary sources.  How does this document compare or contrast to it?**