



THE OLD AND THE NEW

Around the 1450's there was a change, which became stronger and stronger. People began to re-discover the art, music and culture of the ancient Greeks. This movement is called Renaissance. Renaissance means rebirth¹. People seemed to want to go beyond the thinking of the church and to open the door to a new world full of things to explore², learn and discover³. From 1450 to 1750 European seafarers⁴ and traders⁵ began to explore and exploit⁶ the rest of the world.



Below are just a few of the important events and the people responsible.



Match the event to the person responsible! ("c. 1505" means around 1505)
(Solution: see the answer page)

A	Printing Press – in the 1450's
B	Mona Lisa – c.1505
C	Painted the Dome of St. Peter's in Rome – in the 1550's
D	The Planets rotate ⁷ around the sun – 1530
E	Wrote his famous Romeo and Juliet c. 1595
F	Discovered America – 1492
G	Started research ⁹ into the law of gravity ¹⁰ – 1665

1	Columbus – 1451–1506, seafarer
2	Copernicus – 1473–1543, astronomer
3	William Shakespeare – 1564–1616, dramatist
4	Michelangelo – 1475–1564, artist
5	Leonardo da Vinci – 1452–1519, artist
6	Isaac Newton – 1642–1727, scientist ⁸
7	Johannes Gutenberg – c.1400–1468, inventor ¹¹

¹ Wiedergeburt, ² erforschen, ³ entdecken, ⁴ Seefahrer, ⁵ Händler, ⁶ ausbeuten, ⁷ kreisen, rotieren, ⁸ Wissenschaftler, ⁹ Forschung, ¹⁰ Schwerkraft, ¹¹ Erfinder



FLORENCE AND THE DE MEDICI FAMILY



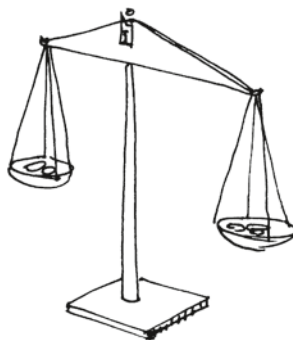
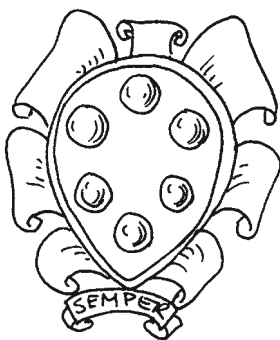
Florence became the queen city of the Italian Renaissance. The Lion with the red lily became the sign¹ of Florence's power. The wool industry made Florence a rich city. It was controlled by the de Medici family. Their coat of arms was a shield² with five red balls and was present wherever woollen cloth was sold! Cosimo de Medici had the biggest banking business in Europe. In 1422 there were 72 bankers in the city – with scales³, coins and account books⁴. The gold coin of Florence, the florin, was first minted⁵ in 1252 and remained⁶ for the next 300 years. It had the lilies of Florence on one side and John the Baptist (patron saint of Florence) on the other. The de Medici family was the most powerful family in Florence over generations with influence in politics, money, the Church and the arts. (Michelangelo designed the public⁷ library⁸, filled with priceless⁹ manuscripts and books collected by the de Medicis.)

1



Now look at the following symbols of Florence and A: identify them and B: describe them!

(Solution: see the answer page)



2

3

4

¹ Wappen, ² Schild, ³ Waage, ⁴ Kontobuch, ⁵ prägen, ⁶ bleiben, ⁷ öffentlich, ⁸ Bibliothek, ⁹ von unschätzbarem Wert



PRINTING

Up to the 1450's information was predominately¹ communicated by word of mouth. Books were written by hand – in comparison to today, there were very few of them. In the 1450's a German craftsman², Johannes Gutenberg, introduced³ the printing press into Europe. This revolutionised communication. It gave people access⁴ to learning and ideas. The Bible and classic Greek and Roman works were the first books to be printed in Europe. By 1520 there were more than 200 different editions⁵ of the Bible in different languages. Printing also helped spread⁶ the new scientific⁷ and political ideas of the time. Gutenberg's method of printing did not change for the next five centuries.



Use the code in the box to find out more facts about Johannes Gutenberg and printing!
(Solution: see the answer page)

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Johannes Gutenberg and his father were .

He used moveable type with pieces of for each .

His most famous book was the 42 .

The first things printed were .

The first printing press was invented by the around 1040.

¹ überwiegend, ² Handwerker, ³ einführen, ⁴ Zugang, ⁵ Ausgabe, ⁶ verbreiten, ⁷ wissenschaftlich, ⁸ Flugblatt