

THE RENAISSANCE REVEALED



MEDICI: PATRONS OF THE RENAISSANCE

WHAT WE LEARNED:

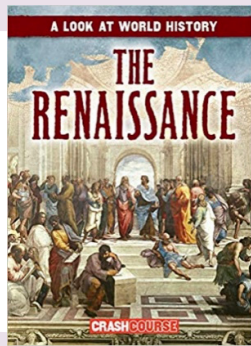
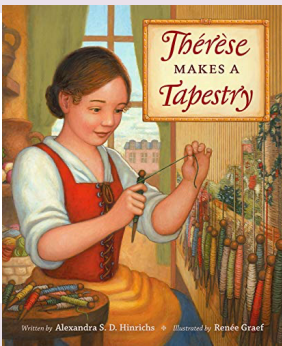
- The Medici family were wealthy merchant bankers.
- They helped to usher in the Italian Renaissance by using their wealth to sponsor the arts and commission buildings, sculptures, paintings, and tapestries.
- We discussed tapestries and the weaving process.

ART ACTIVITY: WEAVING

Cosimo de' Medici commissioned a series of twenty tapestries depicting the life of Old Testament character Joseph. Because of the time-consuming workmanship and materials used, tapestries were very expensive and considered the most valuable objects of their time. Only royalty or the wealthy could afford them. The activity simulates a plain weave used in tapestry making—a common and basic style of weave in which the weft alternates over and under the warp.



BOOK NOOK



[*Thérèse Makes a Tapestry*](#)
by Alexandra S.D. Hinrichs

[*A Look at World History: The Renaissance*](#)
by Marie Roesser

FOR PARENTS:

The Medici family was a very powerful and wealthy family during the Renaissance. They obtained their wealth through banking and used their power to influence politics and the church. The family line included popes, queens, and dukes. The Medici helped usher in the Italian Renaissance by being patrons of the arts. Lorenzo de' Medici was the greatest supporter commissioning artists like Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, and Michelangelo.

PLEASE NOTE: As M&G's host location for *Homeschool Days*, Mack Library will feature books each month for parents to reference as resources. We hope these additional features will further support your teaching at home.

WHO'S WHO IN THE MEDICI CLAN

Draw a line to match the description on the left with the picture/ name on the right. Find the answers at the bottom.

1. Known as a patron of the arts



2. Pope when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses on Wittenberg Church



3. Ruled in France



4. Helped grow the family fortune and power



5. Founded the family bank



Answers to Who's Who matching section:
1. Lorenzo, 2. Leo X, 3. Catherine, 4. Cosimo, 5. Giovanni!

CONNECTIONS AT HOME:

More Weaving: Paper Plate Weaving Activity

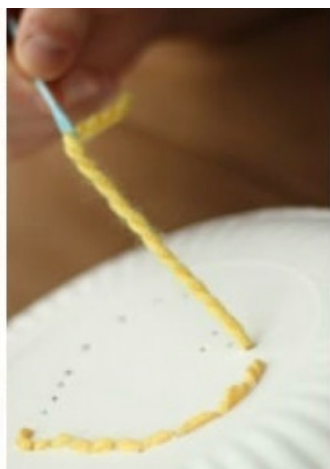
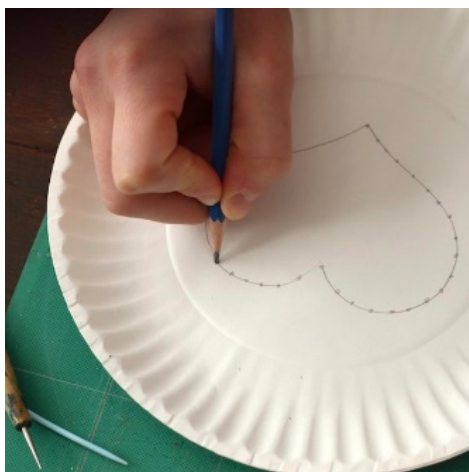
Project reference at [Paper Plate Yarn Weaving - Sewing Hearts - Happy Hooligans](#)

Materials:

- Plates
- Heart Stencil
- Pencil
- Something to poke holes in the plate
- Child's plastic sewing needle
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Paint
- Paintbrush

Directions:

1. Using stencil and pencil trace a heart in the center of paper plate
2. Make dots around the heart
3. Poke holes through each dot
4. Thread needle with yarn and begin going in and out of the holes
5. Go in and out of every hole (cross over for an interesting pattern)
6. Backstitch on the back around the outside of the heart
7. Choose a matching color of paint and paint the border



FURTHER FUN: A FAMILY TREE

Established by Cosimo de' Medici, the Medici became an influential and powerful family for several generations. Beginning with the founding of the clan as a banking family in 1397 by Giovanni di Bicci de' Medici, the family's wealth and members expanded in each century. With so many generations dating back to the Renaissance, family members today would need a way to track the bloodline. To understand how big this task could be, try making your own family tree.



Find ideas here: [Family Tree Ideas For Kids \(Preschool Projects\)](http://preschoolhomeactivities.com)
(preschoolhomeactivities.com)

Due to the changing nature of web resources, M&G strongly urges you as the parent to preview these sites before your child accesses them. The fact that these sites are available on this handout does not imply that M&G endorses their content from the standpoint of morals, philosophy, theology, or scientific hypotheses.



M&G Educational Mission:

Through tours, events, and publications, the Museum & Gallery seeks to partner with educators in fulfilling all of the National Visual Arts Content Standards. By integrating art into the core curriculum, M&G's goals are to teach children to value the arts, to communicate through the arts, to become creative problem solvers through the inclusion of STEAM-related concepts and fully-developed STEAM units, to understand history and culture in light of the arts, to improve literary interest and understanding through visual storytelling, to critique the arts, and to develop an aesthetic awareness of the arts. Through fulfilling the mission, M&G is able to help develop citizens who have the ability to think, feel, and understand the world in which they live.