

Picture Books of The Past:

Celebrating M&G's Collection

The High Renaissance: The Age of Man



What We Learned:

- We learned that although the High Renaissance lasted only 20 years there were discoveries in science, religion, medicine, and even entertainment.
- We learned that Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael were the most important artists of the High Renaissance. Their innovations changed how we “see” art.
- We explored three Museum & Gallery artists connected Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael: Marco d'Oggiono who studied in Leonardo's workshop, Francesco Granacci who was a close friend of Michelangelo's, and Sandro Botticelli who was a contemporary of Raphael.

Art Activity:

GRANACCI MASTER COPIES

Your children were whisked back to the Italian Renaissance for their art activity today. We observed M&G's painting, *Rest on the Flight into Egypt* by Granacci, and admired its similarities with a similar painting by Leonardo da Vinci. We noticed how he captured the aerial perspective while using the sfumato painting technique. Afterward, each child used a graphite paper transfer technique to recreate the masterwork on their own paper. When our drawings were finished, we used colored pencils to fill in our creations. It's amazing how well these young artists matched the original masterpiece!



1500



Copernicus observes a lunar eclipse while in Rome.

1503



Pocket handkerchiefs come into use across Europe.

1512



While preparing a lesson for his students on Paul's epistle to the Romans, **Martin Luther** discovers justification by faith.

1515



Johannes Schöner creates his first terrestrial globe—the earliest globe to bear the inscription "America."

1519



Spectacles are invented for nearsightedness.

1520



Henry VIII orders the building of bowling lanes at his palace.
(Picture, The Medieval and Modern History Vault)

The Story Behind the Painting:

MARTIN LUTHER DISCOVERING JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH BY EDWARD MATTHEW WARD

Edward Matthew Ward's portrait of the great reformer Martin Luther, places him in his "Renaissance study" surrounded by hand-copied manuscripts, including an enormous Bible.

As we learned in our last lesson, before the printing press Bibles were handwritten and very valuable. So, it was not unusual to chain them to a desk so that they would not be stolen. Here the **chain** is also **symbolic of Luther's struggle** to understand God's Word. He is "chained in spiritual darkness." But he is soon to be "set free" through reading Paul's epistle to the Romans.

This moment is foreshadowed by the **light** that streams through an open window shining down on Luther (a symbol of **heavenly illumination**.)

Like Ward's beautifully rendered portrait, the following fragment from Luther's autobiography vividly captures the power of his moment of discovery: *"This passage of Paul—the just shall live by faith—became to me the gate of heaven . . . I felt myself to be reborn."*

A Closer Look:

THE AMBASSADORS BY HANS HOLBEIN, THE YOUNGER

Remember this painting from today's timeline?

Take a closer look at what's on the shelves.

Can you identify the following items?

- **Celestial Globe:** This type of globe maps the constellations in the night sky.
- **Terrestrial Globe:** This type of globe maps the continents and oceans.
- **Three Sundials:** cylindrical, horizontal, and polyhedral. Before you search take a look at the close-up [HERE](#).
- **Torquetum:** A circular instrument on a stand used to track and measure the position of the stars, sun, and planets.
- **Lutheran Hymn Book:** first compiled and translated by Martin Luther
- **Lute:** Martin Luther was an accomplished lute player. Listen to a performance of Renaissance lute music [HERE](#).
- **A Case of Recorders:** Recorders were also popular. To hear a Renaissance recorder, click [HERE](#).



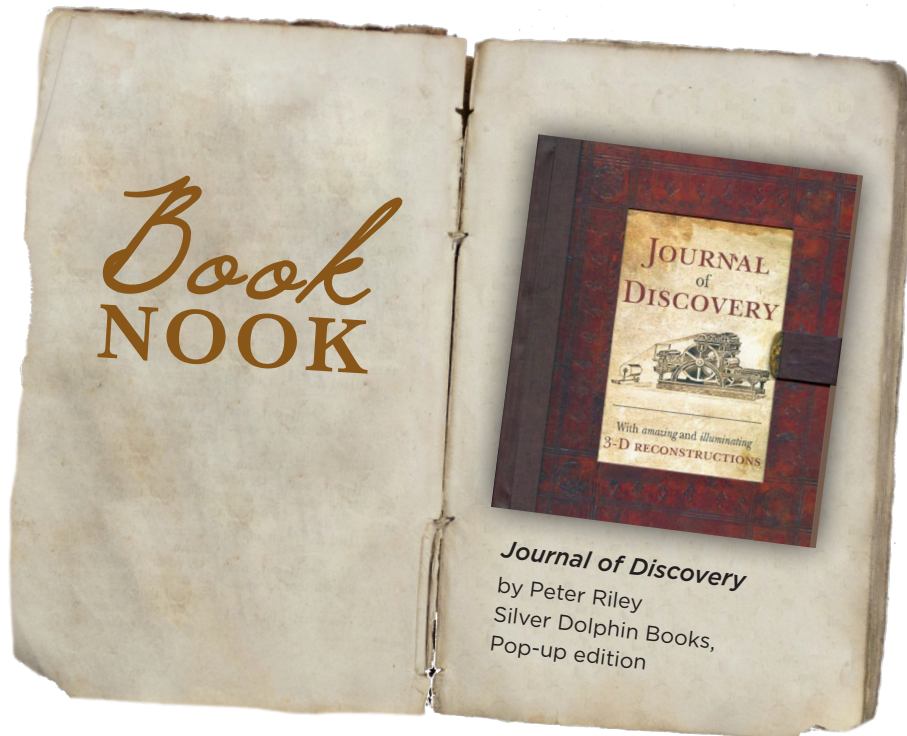
For Parents:

Today's lesson focused on the High Renaissance, the period between 1500 and 1520. As the timeline above highlights, this 20-year period brought an "explosion of knowledge" in astronomy, medicine, religion, and everyday accoutrements. This was largely due to the invention of the printing press in 1440. The invention spread throughout Europe, and books suddenly became readily available; as a result, literacy increased. In addition, painters and inventors were now able to print images of their work for others to study. For example, the anatomical sketches of Leonardo da Vinci and to a lesser degree Michelangelo were invaluable in helping artists create life-like figures. For students interested in further exploration of this exciting time, they can check out the **Additional Resources** section.

ADDITIONAL *Resources*

- Visit David Hawcock's website to learn more about [Leonardo's Working Inventions Pop-Up Book](#).
- You can also explore several [3-D interactive models of Leonardo da Vinci's inventions](#) at PBS.
- Enjoy this M&G video on [Martin Luther's Musical Legacy](#).
- Want to learn how to make a globe? Click [HERE](#).
- Learn more about the many things that were happening in the Renaissance by exploring [Kiddle: an online encyclopedia for kids](#).

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.

