

PRE-TEST

T/F

- ___ 1) “Renaissance” means “rebirth.”
- ___ 2) The Renaissance marked changes in social and philosophical thought, but not religious.
- ___ 3) Elizabeth I was a well-beloved and powerful queen.
- ___ 4) Medical innovation meant the disavowal of the four humors.
- ___ 5) The ordering of musical scales was linked to the ordering of the universe.

ENGLISH RENAISSANCE

1485-1625

The beginning...

“Renaissance” quite literally means “rebirth.”

The “rebirth” referred to the renewal of the Medieval man from one who blindly followed faith to one who doubted and who put faith in reason.

Scientific, artistic, social, political, and religious thought turned in new directions.

Scientific Thought

The Cosmos: Inner Spheres



Many during the Renaissance thought the Earth was the center of the universe and that there was a divine ordering to the spheres of that universe.

As you can see to the left, according to Empedocles, the center of the universe was made up of the four elements (earth, water, air, and fire) as well as two basic forces (harmony and discord).

All of this was logical: water rises from the earth, air and steam rise from water, and fire seems to rise through the air.

But it didn't stop there...

Four Elements: Connection

Remember those 4 Elements of the body from Chaucer (phlegm, yellow bile, blood, and black bile)? Here they are again!

The four elements of inner sphere were linked not only to the four seasons of the earth but also to the four elements of the body and, according to Aristotle, combinations of the qualities of hot/cold/wet/dry.

Air= Spring/blood/hot-moist

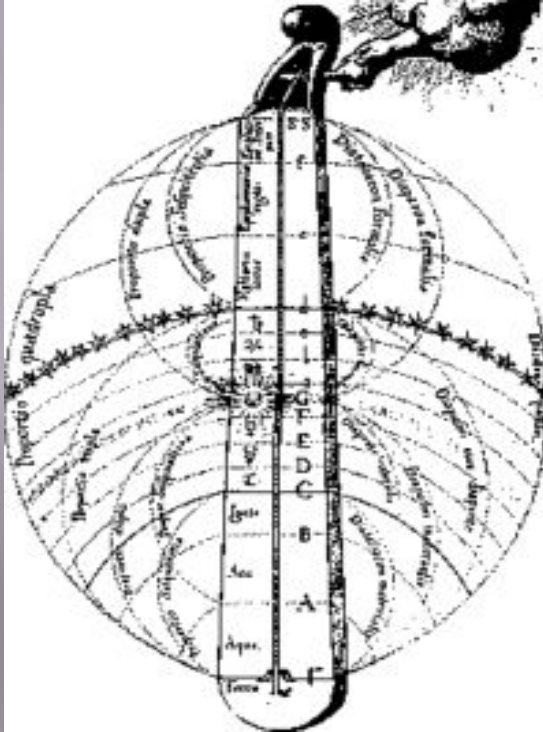
Fire= Summer/yellow bile/ dry-hot

Earth= Autumn/ black bile/ cold-dry

Water= Winter/phlegm/cold-moist



The Cosmos: Music of the Spheres



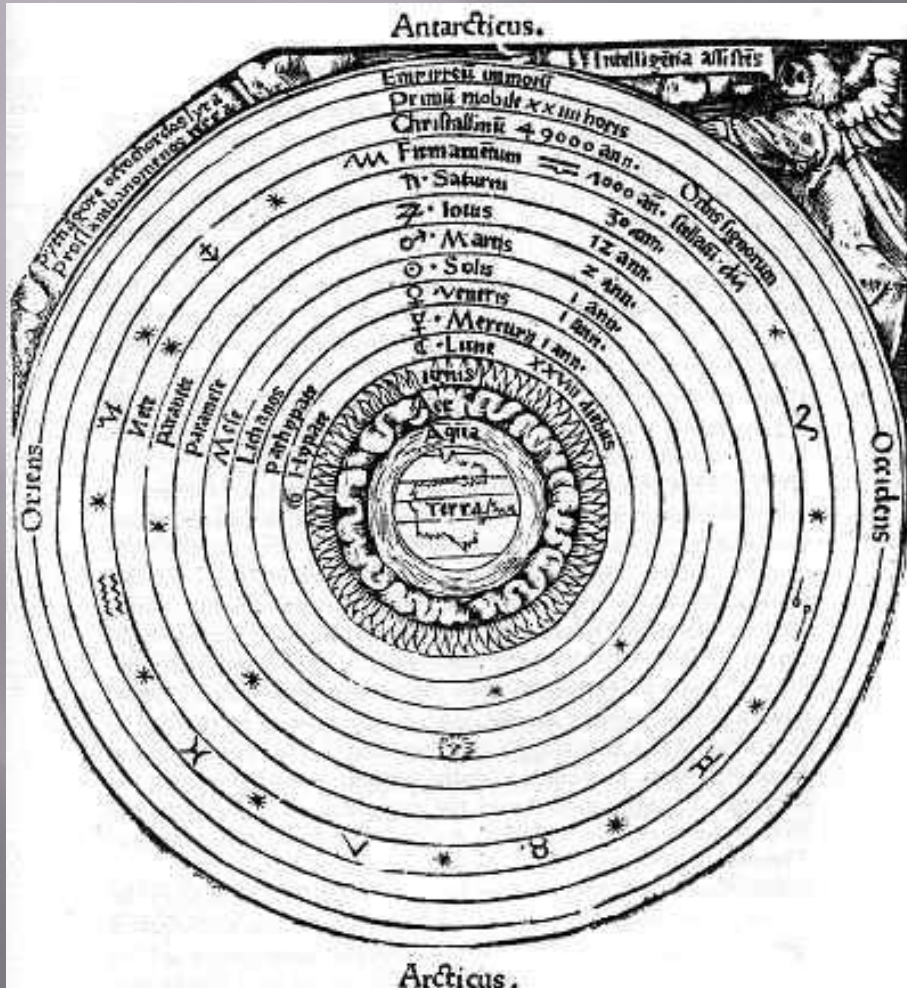
The next layer of the cosmos consisted of the “seven planets”: Moon, Mercury, Venus, Sun, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn.

The heavens and earth in the Renaissance were seen as being in musical harmony.

Each scale in medieval music was linked with a planet (7 scales/ 7 planets) and each had its own characteristic sound.

When everything was aligned and in order, man can hear what the Renaissance would call “the music of the spheres.”

The Cosmos: Outer Spheres



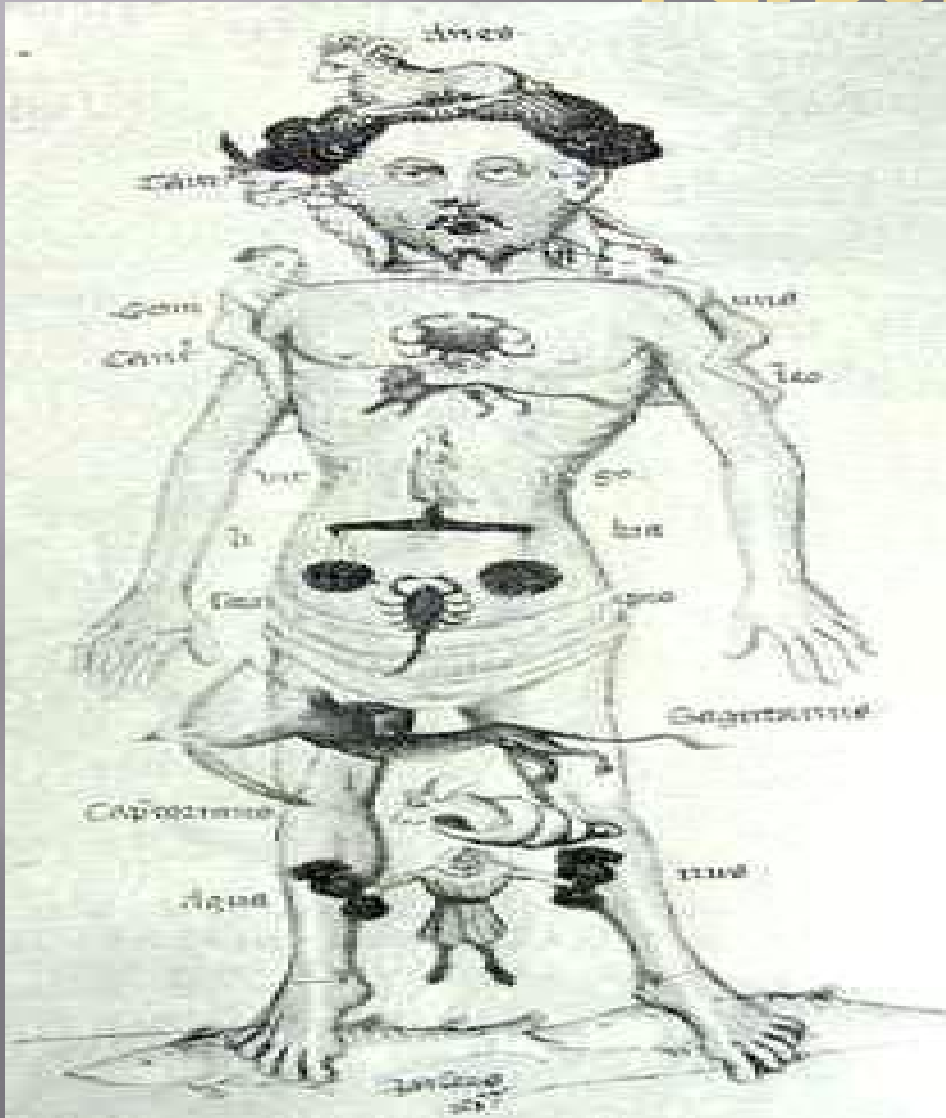
There were 4 “outer spheres”:
The innermost of the spheres is the “firmament.” This was a layer of fixed stars that we can see in the sky and from which we get our zodiac signs (as you can see on the illustrations).

The second layer was the “primum mobile” or “first moveable.” This sphere provides momentum to the others and turns once a day.

The third layer is the “crystalline sphere” which explained the occurrences of equinoxes.

The outer sphere is the heavens.

The Cosmos: Making it Personal



The music of the spheres could be heard by man which means he, as well, is part of the divine order (an order which ,in a moment, we'll see gets even more complicated).

As such, the macrocosm of the universe affected the microcosm of the man. To illustrate, the zodiac of the firmament affected specific parts of the human body.

Down to Earth: The Ladder

Just as there was an orderly progression in the cosmos from earth up to the heavens, there was a generally accepted progression on earth from the land up to God.

The world itself is an ordered progression from

Stone- passive existence

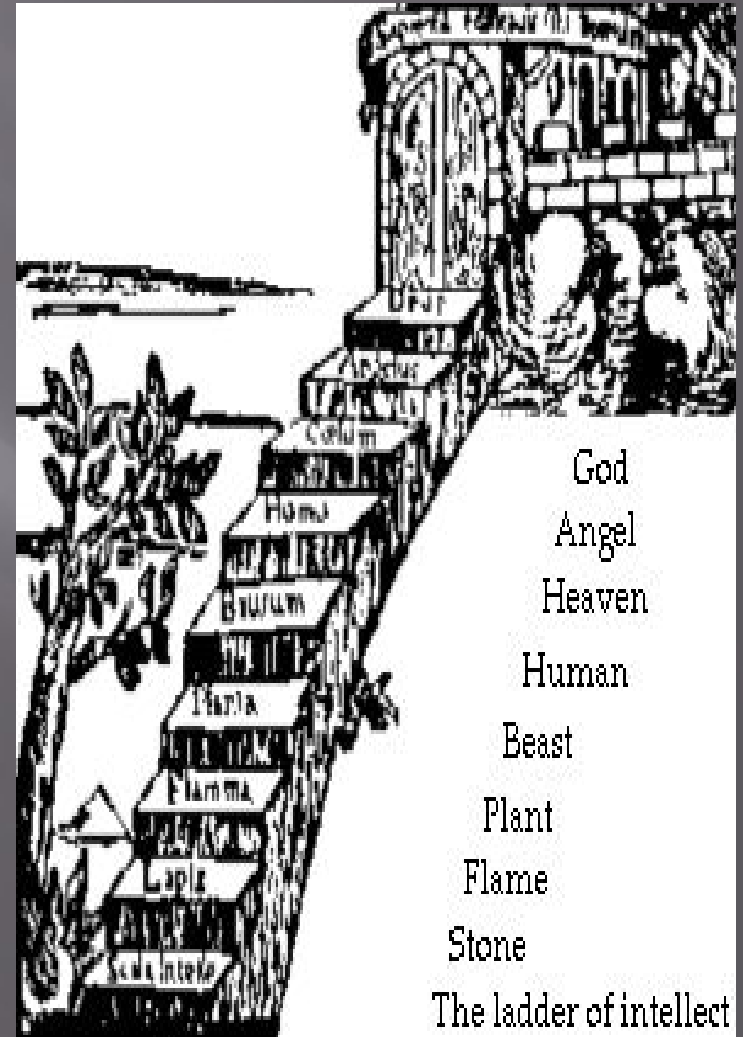
Flame- existence and movement

Plant- existence, movement, and growth

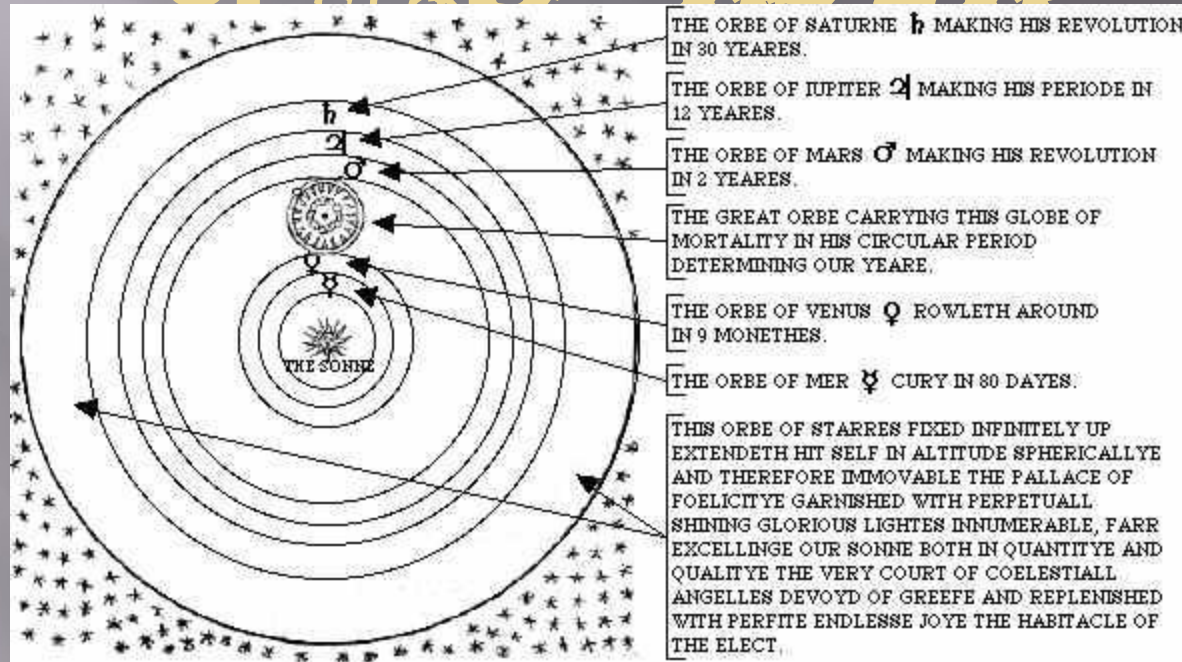
Beast- existence, movement, growth, and will (desire)

Human- existence, movement, growth, will , and reason

Angel- existence, movement, growth, will, reason, and understanding (of God)



Order in Everything and a Fear of DISORDER



Although Copernicus published his *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* in 1543, it was forbidden to be read for some time. Powerful religious officials viewed the text as irreligious because it challenged the generally accepted view of the universe and, thus, challenged divine order.

Artistic Thought

Fibonacci's Number

Can you guess the next number in the following sequence:

1,1,2,3,5,8...

These numbers were used for more than just a fun riddle, however. They affected design patterns in art and architecture. Here's how: if we use the formula $a+b$ is to a as a is to b then the ratios that result are all fairly close to 1.618.

Coincidence?

Artists would use this ratio when they would paint or construct buildings. The ratio of 1.618 is often called “phi,” the “golden ratio,” or “divine ratio” (back to that divine order again...). They thought the ratio of 1:1.618 was the most aesthetically pleasing.

But, maybe they have something here...

Nature reflects Fibonacci's number as well. Think of some things in nature with spirals:



That's right...

They all fit Fibonacci's sequence!

For example, a sunflower's head is made up of two opposite sets of spirals. There are 21 in one direction and 34 in the other (Fibonacci's sequence).

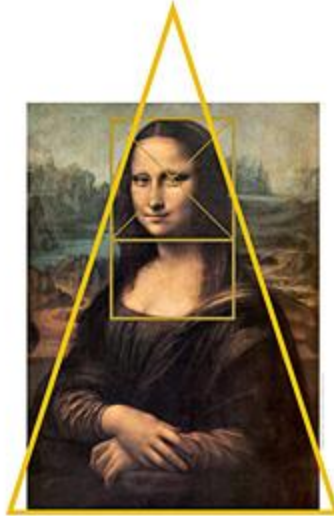
A pinecone has 8 and 13! This is, as always, a ratio of approximately 1.618.

And the Great Pyramids of Egypt? Yep... built in a ratio of 1.618!

And, even more cool?!



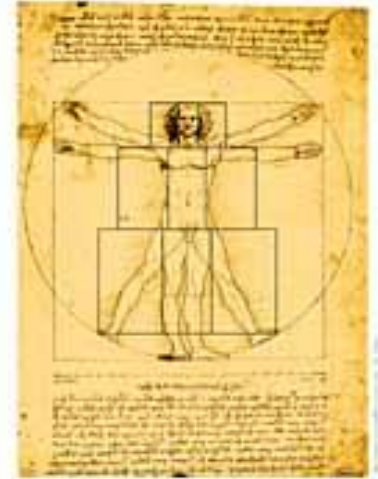
Leonardo 1 : 1.618



Leonardo 1 : 1.618



Leonardo 1 : 1.618



Leonardo 1 : 1.618



Leonardo 1 : 1.618

Social Thought

Secular Humanism

Let's break this phrase down to understand what drove social thought:

Secular? Not religious

Humanism? Study of human nature is of utmost interest

With the turn back to the classics and to pagan texts (away from the church) came the assertion of individuality and independence.

Everyday Life

- Trade grew with the population boom.
- The Thames River was called the “Great highway of London” because it was the most important means of transportation to and from London.
- The Middle class, growing with the added trade, could now afford books (which led to a more educated populace).
- And, as studies have shown, higher education levels leads to later marriage ages. Despite common misconceptions, the average age of marriage was around 27!

And we can't forget entertainment!



Eating (and drinking) was always popular. I guess table manners didn't follow suit. Although feasts were common so was the throwing of bones (even by noblemen) on the floor when they were finished.

Fashion was also a popular pastime, as it certainly took plenty of time to look that good! More than anything, the Elizabethan citizen was concerned with their hair. They would often spend lots of money on hair dye. Red and Blond were the colors of choice.



And, as if food and fashion weren't enough, the first public theaters were built in England under Elizabeth's reign and quickly became the most popular form of entertainment for all classes. (But, more on that later...) In addition, football, swimming, fishing, bowling, wrestling, and tennis were also common pastimes.

Political and Religious Thoughts

Henry VII



Henry VII was the first of the Tudors when he ascended the throne and effectively ended the War of the Roses.

England, for the first time in over one hundred years, was at peace.

Henry VII died in 1509 and was succeeded by his son, Henry VIII.

Henry VIII: A Thing for “Catherine”



Henry VIII is probably best known for his barrage of wives. So, not to disappoint, let's talk about them:

- 1) Divorced: Catherine of Aragon → Mary
- 2) Beheaded: Anne Boleyn → Elizabeth
- 3) Died: Jane Seymour → Edward VI
- 4) Divorced: Anne of Cleves
- 5) Beheaded: Catherine Howard
- 6) Lived: Catherine Parr



Edward VI: The “Lad”

It might be hard to believe, but this little guy was once king of England. Although Edward was born a weak and sickly child, he was Henry VIII's only (legitimate anyway) son and, thus, heir to the throne.

He was only 9 or 10 when he ascended to power. What this basically meant is that his advisors had plenty to say in terms of political action. However, those advisors didn't have power for long as Edward died at the age of 15.

At the announcement of his death, Mary (his half-sister) rode into town to claim her birthright.



(“Bloody”) Mary I: OR “Lizzie, Lizzie, Lizzie”

Don't let that faint smile fool you! You don't earn the title “Bloody” for nothing!

Mary was a short-tempered devout Catholic coming to the throne in a time of flourishing Protestantism, which could only mean one thing... trouble! Or, should we say, trouble x 300 (or more)?!

As you can probably guess, Mary wasn't very lucky in love either.

But I guess it's hard living under the shadow of other siblings...



Elizabeth I: The Virgin Queen



What a change of atmosphere! The year preceding her ascendance, she was under house arrest by order of her sister Mary.

Just as Mary had reversed everything Edward had done during his reign, Elizabeth reversed everything Mary did (well, almost). She started with religion, particularly since she was Protestant. However, she sought the middle ground to establish peace.

While Elizabeth remained single in the traditional sense of the word, she was married to her country. But her life wasn't easy, she had a jealous relative— another Mary.

Mary Stuart (“Murder Plot” Mary)

Mary Stuart was Elizabeth’s cousin but there was no love shared (at least on Mary’s part). Mary was jealous of Elizabeth and wanted the throne for herself. In order to get it, she tried several times to murder her cousin.

Since Mary was a Catholic, Elizabeth’s advisors wanted her to execute her cousin, but Elizabeth refused– even though she did keep her imprisoned in the Tower of London for 18 years.

Finally, after another assassination attempt in 1586, Elizabeth agreed to have her executed.

Elizabeth died naturally in 1603.



James I- and the Golden Age Continued.... Phew!

Since Elizabeth remained unmarried at her death, she produced no heir to the throne. Thus, the next in line, James I (and Mary Stuart's son), took the throne.

Luckily, James was a Protestant, just as Elizabeth AND, much like his predecessor, he valued the Renaissance revival and supported the arts.

In religion, he wasn't as tolerant as Elizabeth, however. Thus, the Catholics plotted to kill him, and almost succeeded! Just in time, a warning letter arrived in Parliament letting them know about 60 barrels of gunpowder in the basement of the House of Lords.



Remember, Remember...



One conspirator, Guy Fawkes, was caught as he was carrying out the plot.

The British now celebrate Guy Fawkes Day every Nov. 5th on which they set off fireworks and burn dolls of Guy Fawkes.

His attempt is memorialized in the British rhyme:
“Remember, Remember the fifth of November,
Gunpowder, Treason, and Plot.
We see no reason, why gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot.”

Despite efforts otherwise, James I died of natural causes in 1625, effectively ending the “Renaissance.”

Let's go back to that Pre-test:

T/F

T__1) “Renaissance” means “rebirth.”

F__2) The Renaissance marked changes in social and philosophical thought, but not religious.

T__3) Elizabeth I was a well-beloved and powerful queen.

F__4) Medical innovation meant the disavowal of the four humors.

T__5) The ordering of musical scales was linked to the ordering of the universe.