The Renaissance

Essential Questions:

1. What was the Renaissance and what brought it about?
2. How was the Renaissance different in England than it was in mainland Europe?

- The term "Renaissance" means "rebirth" (French)
- Why was this term used? It is the period in European civilization immediately following the Middle Ages, conventionally held to have been characterized by a surge of interest in classical learning and values. It occurred from the 14th to the 16th Centuries.
- The Renaissance also witnessed the discovery and exploration of new continents, the substitution of the Copernican (geocentric) for the Ptolemaic (heliocentric) system of astronomy, the decline of the feudal system, the growth of commerce, and the invention or application of such potentially powerful innovations as paper, printing, the mariner's compass, and gunpowder.
- To the scholars and thinkers of the day, however, it was primarily a time of the revival of classical learning and wisdom after a long period of cultural decline and stagnation.

It began in northern Italy and quickly spread to the rest of Europe.

What brought about the Renaissance?

- An intensification of interest in the literature of classical Greece and Rome.
- A more worldly focus on human beings and on this life as an end in itself rather than a temporary halting place on the way to eternity. (Life vs. Death)
- A widening of human interests (art, literature, thinking, philosophy)
- Patronage of the arts by the wealthiest families of the day (Borgia, de Medici, Sforza, etc.)
- A change in outlook of religion and traditional thinking.

What about England?

- Unlike many periods of history, we know the exact date when the Renaissance hit England: August 22, 1485 (Battle of Bosworth Field)
- This date signified a new period of learning, a new dynasty of rulers and new expressions of advancement.
- It also brought about its own set of problems...

I. The beginnings of the Colonial Movement

A. Religion

1517: Martin Luther (a priest) sees the corruption in the Catholic Church. He nails his "95 Theses" to the doors of Wittenburg Cathedral. These theses express his opinions on what is wrong with the Church and how to fix the problems. He is excommunicated.

1533: Henry VIII divorces Catherine of Aragon. Since the Pope will not issue a divorce, Henry (a Catholic) splits from the Church and starts the C of E - Church of England (Anglican).

1559: The Puritan Movement claims that the Church of England is becoming sinful and decadent. Leaders accuse the Anglican clergy of "Popery" (worshipping the Pope and being too Catholic). They want to make the Church more pure and simple. The movement grows in popularity.

1570's: Discrimination and violence against Puritans begins to spread. The movement (along with radical leaders) causes political conflict as well as conflict between clergies.

B. Colonization of the New World

- 1513: Juan Ponce de Leon discovers and founds "La Florida" for Spain. He becomes the first governor of the new colony. Spain then takes over New Mexico, Arizona, Kansas, and Texas.
- 1564: France tried to create a fort in Florida. It is destroyed.
- 1565: St. Augustine is founded by the Spanish.
- 1604: France begins successful colonization of the area that is now Canada. By 1640, over 300 families have settled here.
- 1607: England, wanting their share of North America, founds Jamestown (named after King James) in the Virginia Colony. Many of the settlers are Anglican. Jamestown is nearly destroyed by the Powhatan Uprising in 1622, but survives.
- ca. 1608: Puritans leave England and go to Holland in search of religious tolerance.
- 1620: These Puritans board the *Mayflower,* sail and settle in what is now New England. They form the Plymouth Settlement. These people later become known as "Pilgrims".
- 1629: Massachusetts Bay Colony is founded by Puritans. It has strict religious laws with little tolerance for other beliefs. The Native American tribes living in this area are wiped out by disease, war and displacement.

C. Who rules and who cares?

1558: Elizabeth I (Protestant) takes the throne after her sister Mary (Catholic) dies.

- Elizabeth's reign is considered a "Golden Age" because of the rise of printing, Shakespeare, exploration/ colonization of the New World and relative religious peace.
- New World colonies like Virginia were named for her, and she ruled for 45 years. She never married and had no heirs.
- When she died in 1603, her cousin James VI of Scotland took the throne to rule Scotland and England.
- Elizabeth and James' Protestantism and religious tolerance paved the way for the spread of Calvinism, Lutheranism, Anabaptists and changes in Catholicism.

Faith	Origin	Basic principles
Protestantism	Luther et al. (Europe)	Simple worship, communion, no "ceremony" or saints, no transubstantiation, priests marry
Calvinism	John Calvin (Switzerland)	Predestination, the "elect", perfect govt = theocracy
Lutheranism	Martin Luther (Germany)	All people are equal, salvation through good works, all teachings should be straight from the Bible
Catholicism	Europe	Veneration of saints, "ceremony", salvation through priesthood, transubstantiation
Anabaptists	Europe	Shared possessions, baptism of adults only, refusal to fight in war, state and church sep.