Learning Target

• Describe the characteristics of the Renaissance and understand why it began in Italy.
The Renaissance in Italy

- Sparked by a renewed interest in the culture of ancient Rome, the Renaissance began in Italy in the 1300s, then spread north to the rest of Europe.

- Renaissance or Rebirth: It changed the way people looked at themselves, it was a rebirth of interest in learning, a time of unparalleled creativity in the following:
  - Political
  - Social
  - Economic
  - Cultural
Humanism

- At the heart of the Italian Renaissance was an intellectual movement known as **humanism**, which stressed the study of classical Greek and Roman cultures and the development of the individual.

- An intellectual movement based on the study of classical culture focused on **Humanities** (Grammar, Rhetoric, Poetry History)
  - Humanism looked at the secular side of man (his environment) not religion.

- Humanists wanted to increase knowledge of humanity through education in the Humanities.

- **Francesco Petrarch** was the 1st humanist.
  - He searched and collected Greek & Roman classic manuscripts. He saved works of Homer, Virgil etc.
Italy: Cradle of the Renaissance

• Began in Italy because (Geography and History)

1. proximity of Rome where the ruins of the Empire existed
2. Location of the church that supported artists and the arts
3. Rich Italian cities that had money and a powerful merchant class that strive to be unique
4. Contact through trade with Muslim nations / brought wealth, knowledge of Science and technology of Greece and Rome preserved by Muslim scholars
During the Renaissance, people:

- Sought to bring their age out of disorder and disunity
- Placed a greater emphasis on individual achievement
- Tried to understand the world with more accuracy

Renaissance thinkers evolved a new worldview and reawakened interest in classical Greek and Roman learning.
During the Renaissance there was a new spirit of adventure and curiosity

1. Trade assumed greater importance than before.
2. Navigators sailed across the oceans.
3. Scientists viewed the universe in new ways.
4. Writers and artists experimented with new techniques.
Trade routes carried new ideas from Asia and Muslim scholars.

Italy’s central location in the Mediterranean helped encourage trade.

Banking, manufacturing, and a merchant network provided the wealth that fueled the Renaissance.
Europe in 1500

Italy’s central location helped make it a center for the trade of goods and ideas.
Italy’s Vibrant city states played a role in the Renaissance

1. **Florence**: Florence became the symbol of the renaissance. A small city state that was very powerful /wealthy and controlled by merchants.

2. These families brought trade and wealth, and provided leadership.

3. They were interested in art and emphasized personal achievement.

4. They were *patrons* of the arts and supported artists, writers, and scholars.
The Medici family of merchants and bankers controlled **Florence** after 1434

- The Medici family: Supported the arts as a **patron** (financial supporter)
  1. Cosimo started the dynasty followed by Lorenzo
  2. Lorenzo d’ Medici invited poets, philosophers, and artists to the city.
  3. Florence became a leader, with numerous gifted artists, poets, architects, and scientists.
  4. Turned Florence into the most brilliant city in history / so many geniuses at one time since Athens
  5. Became the Vatican Bankers (God’s Banker) that led to creating credit / money for the modern age

**Ordinary people began to appreciate art outside of the Church.**