

Summary: A Changing World

The Renaissance

The Renaissance started in Italy in the 1300s and spread through Europe. It lasted about 300 years. People mixed ideas from ancient Greece and Rome with new ideas. Artists made paintings look more like real life. Musicians created new kinds of music, such as opera. Writers wrote about real people and events.

The Age of Exploration

Many European countries were monarchies. Their rulers wanted more land. They wanted to trade with places far away. They wanted to teach other people Christianity.

In the 1480s, the king of Portugal sent explorers to sail around the southern tip of Africa. Later, they reached India, China, and Japan. Spanish ships sailed west to find Asia. Instead they found North and South America.

The Spanish met American Indians, such as the Aztecs, Mayans, and Incas. These nations had advanced cultures. The Spanish took their land and enslaved them.

Colonies Around the Globe

European nations started colonies in the Americas and India. Colonization affected the people already living in those lands.

Europeans brought disease and hardship to colonies. They often changed the local economy to help themselves. They forced their beliefs on others. Colonizers also brought new ideas about farming, medicine, and technology.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

Renaissance *noun*, a period of time when people started thinking in new ways

monarchy *noun*, a nation ruled by one person

colonization *noun*, act of setting up colonies



After You Read

REVIEW What were some of the new ideas people had during the Renaissance? Draw a box around three sentences that tell what artists, musicians and writers did during the Renaissance.

REVIEW Why did European monarchs send people to explore the world? Draw a box around three sentences that tell what rulers of monarchies wanted.

REVIEW In what ways did colonization make the world different? Highlight the sentences that tell what Europeans brought and what they did to change the colonies.