Big Idea

The Renaissance Spreads Outside of Italy

Essential Question

How did the Renaissance spread to the rest of Europe?
Words To Know

Renaissance - “rebirth” in French, the Renaissance was a cultural movement in the 14th-17th centuries during which European artists, scientists, and scholars, were inspired by the achievements of the Greeks and Romans.

Let’s Set The Stage...

As the Renaissance began to grow in Italy, northern Europe was still recovering from the ravages of the Black Death. But by the 1400s, the cities of the north began to enjoy the economic growth—and the wealth—needed to develop their own Renaissance.
The Spread of Wealth Through Trade
Trade routes that existed since the Roman Empire were infused by new wealth and products when trade between the Italian city-states and the Ottoman Empire increased.

As a result, cities like Cologne, Bruges, Paris, London, and Lisbon became centers of trade and banking. Like in Italian cities, trade led to the establishment of a wealthy class of traders and bankers who supported architects and paid for work from artists.
Papermaking

By 1300, papermaking and printing technology reached Europe from China and the Middle East.

Paper making had contributed to golden ages in China and the Middle East, and to the preservation (saving) of Greek and Roman learning that had been “lost” in Europe and preserved (saved) by scholars (students) in the Ottoman Empire.
The Earliest Books

The earliest books were written on scrolls. During the Middle Ages, books were produced by monks who worked with pen and ink in a copying room. Even a small book could take months to complete, and a book the size of the Bible could take several years.

Johann Gutenberg

An amazing invention helped to spread of the Renaissance. In about 1455, Johann Gutenberg of Germany, printed the first complete edition of the Bible using a printing press with movable type.
The Printing Press

A printing revolution had begun that would change Europe. Before the printing press, there were only a few thousand books in all of Europe. These books had been slowly copied by hand. By 1500, according to some estimates, 15 to 20 million volumes had been produced on printing presses.

The Effects of the Printing Press

The printing revolution brought important changes. Printed books were cheaper and easier to produce than hand-copied works. With books more readily available, more people learned to read.
The Effects of the Printing Press

Readers gained access to a broad range of knowledge, from medicine and law to mining. As printing presses were established in Italy and other parts of Europe, printed books exposed educated Europeans to new ideas and new places.

Essential Question Answered

How did the Renaissance spread to the rest of Europe?

Trade between the Italian city-states and the Ottoman Empire increased.

Cities throughout Europe became centers of trade and banking.

Like in Italian cities, trade led to the establishment of a wealthy class of traders and bankers who supported architects and paid for work from artists.
Essential Question Answered

How did the Renaissance spread to the rest of Europe?

Papermaking and printing technology reached Europe from China and the Middle East.

The invention of the printing press helped to spread the ideas of the Renaissance.