

TOPIC 13 THE MODERN AGE

The modern age is a long period in history which began when Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492. By this time Constantinople had already been captured by the Turks. Moreover, the printing machine had also been invented and this meant that books were cheaper and the fact that more and more people could read.

Scholars call the fifteenth and sixteenth century Renaissance or "The Age of Discovery". At this time people were again interested in the art and learning of ancient Greece and Rome.



Explorers were adventurous and brave people. They sailed around seas and oceans and found new lands. Sailors brought cacao trees, tobacco, potatoes and peppers from America. Spain was a powerful country and had a big Empire.

There were some advances in science. The Polish astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus made new discoveries about stars and planets (the Sun and not the Earth was at the centre of the solar system). In philosophy, Erasmus of Rotterdam attacked Christian religion. He didn't believe in Gods and thought that the human being is the centre of the universe. In literature, Petrarch, Dante and Shakespeare wrote about love, death and faith. On the other hand, architects built elegant buildings like St Peter's Basilica or the Cathedral of Florence. In art, Michelangelo painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican, Leonardo Da Vinci *Mona Lisa* and Botticelli *The Birth of Venus*. And Last but not least, in politics people began to have more rights and governments were more democratic.



QUESTIONS

- When was America discovered?
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- Who discovered America?
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- Why was the invention of the printing machine so important?
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- How do scholars also call the Renaissance period?
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- What did the Turks do in 1453?
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- Where was Nicolaus Copernicus born?
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- What did sailors bring from America?
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- Why was Copernicus an important astronomer?
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- What did Erasmus of Rotterdam think?
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- Who painted Mona Lisa?
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- What was literature about?
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- What happened in politics?
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TRUE-FALSE



- 1.- Books became more expensive after the invention of printing.
- 2.- Constantinople was the capital of Eastern Rome before 1453.
- 3.- Italy became the centre of art and learning.
- 4.- Erasmus of Rotterdam was a follower of Christian Church.
- 5.- New foods were brought from America at the time.

QUESTIONS: KEY

- When was America discovered?

America was discovered in 1492

- Who discovered America?

Christopher Columbus

- Why was the invention of the printing machine so important?

Because books became cheaper and so more people could read.

- How do scholars also call the Renaissance period?

The Age of discovery

- What did the Turks do in 1453?

They took Constantinople

- Where was Nicolaus Copernicus born?

He was born in Poland

- What did sailors bring from America?

They brought tobacco, potatoes, cacao trees and peppers.

- Why was Copernicus an important astronomer?

Because he was the first to say that the Sun was the centre of the solar system.

- What did Erasmus of Rotterdam think? He thought that men were the centre of universe (and not God)

- Who painted Mona Lisa?

Leonardo Da Vinci

- What was literature about? Literature was about love, peace and faith

- What happened in politics?

People had more rights and governments were more democratic

TRUE-FALSE



- 1.- Books became more expensive after the invention of printing. FALSE
- 2.- Constantinople was the capital of Eastern Rome before 1453. TRUE
- 3.- Italy became the centre of art and learning. TRUE
- 4.- Erasmus of Rotterdam was a follower of Christian Church. FALSE
- 5.- New foods were brought from America at the time. TRUE