# GRADE 7-8 THE RENAISSANCE: SIMPLE NOTES

**Definition of the Renaissance:**
The Renaissance was a time in Europe, from the 14th to the 17th century, when there was a big interest in art, science, and learning. People began to think more about the world and human potential (that is, what they could do). The word "Renaissance" means "rebirth."

**Influence on Early European Explorers:**
The Renaissance encouraged explorers to travel and discover new lands. People wanted to find new trade routes, spread Christianity, and learn about other cultures. This curiosity led to famous explorers like Christopher Columbus and Vasco da Gama.

## Achievements of Key Figures:

1. **Nicolaus Copernicus**:
   **Achievement:** He proposed the heliocentric model, which said that the Sun, not the Earth, is at the center of the universe.
   **Impact:** Changed how people understood the solar system and influenced modern astronomy.

2. **Galileo Galilei:**
   **Achievement:** He improved the telescope and made important astronomical discoveries, like the moons of Jupiter and the different phases of Venus.
   **Impact:** He agreed and gave evidence for Copernicus's ideas. But he faced challenges from the church for his beliefs.

3. **Leonardo da Vinci**:
   **Achievement:** He was a painter, sculptor, inventor, and scientist. He is famous for works like the "Mona Lisa" and "The Last Supper" paintings.
   **Impact:** He mixed art and science together, showing how they can work together to understand the world better through art and science.

4. **Michelangelo**:
   **Achievement:** He was a great sculptor and painter known for works like the statue of David and the Sistine Chapel ceiling.
   **Impact:** His art was about human emotions (how we feel) and beauty. He inspired future generations of artists.

5. **Vasco da Gama** – was an explorer who discovered a new route to India.

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## Multiple Choice Questions:

***A. Put a ☑ next to your answer.***

1. What does the word "Renaissance" mean?
   A) Decline B) Rebirth C) Revolution D) Discovery

2. Which model did Copernicus propose?
   A) Geocentric B) Heliocentric C) Flat Earth D) Spiral

3. What did Galileo improve to make his discoveries?
   A) The microscope B) The telescope C) The barometer D) The compass

4. Who painted the "Mona Lisa"?
   A) Michelangelo B) Vincent van Gogh
   C) Leonardo da Vinci D) Raphael

5. What was Michelangelo famous for?
   A) Writing B) Sculpting and painting
   C) Astronomy D) Exploration

6. Which explorer is associated with finding a new route to India?
   A) Columbus B) Magellan C) Vasco da Gama D) Zheng He

7. What was a major reason for exploration during the Renaissance?
   A) To start wars B) To spread diseases
   C) To find new trade routes D) To build walls

8. Which of the following did Galileo discover?
   A) The Americas B) The moons of Jupiter
   C) The North Pole D) The Great Wall of China

9. What type of art did Leonardo da Vinci create?
   A) Pottery B) Music
   C) Paintings and sculptures D) Architecture

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10. Which of Michelangelo's works is a famous sculpture?
A) The Last Supper B) David C) The Birth of Venus D) Starry Night

11. What was one effect of the Renaissance on education?
A) Less focus on science
B) More interest in learning and knowledge
C) More emphasis on religion only
D) Decreased literacy rates

12. Who is known for combining art and science?
A) Copernicus B) Galileo
C) Leonardo da Vinci D) Michelangelo

Answers:
1. B) Rebirth
2. B) Heliocentric
3. B) The telescope
4. C) Leonardo da Vinci
5. B) Sculpting and painting
6. C) Vasco da Gama
7. C) To find new trade routes
8. B) The moons of Jupiter
9. C) Paintings and sculptures
10. B) David
11. B) More interest in learning and knowledge
12. C) Leonardo da Vinci

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